THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JUNE 22, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 32 • LATE CITY EDITION

Overcast sky masks solar eclipse

Bad weather and social distancing norms prevented many across India from witnessing the celestial phenomenon

1. A narrow stretch in northern India that included parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttarakhand got to see the ring of fire. The rest of the country got to witness only a partial eclipse
2. Scores of temples, including Tirupati Balaji temple and the 'Chardham' shrines of Uttarakhand, closed on Saturday night and reopened for prayers only on Sunday afternoon once the eclipse was over
3. The partial phase of the eclipse began at 9.16 am and lasted till 3.04 pm. The annular phase began at 10.19 am and ended at 1.58 pm. The phenomenon was live-streamed online owing to Covid-19

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Army commanders on LAC get a free hand

Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong summoned to lodge strong protest against the June 15 violence in Galwan area

MAYANK SINGH AND PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

WHILE giving Army commanders along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) the freedom to improvise, depending on Chinese aggression, India on Sunday summoned Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong to lodge a strong protest against the June 15 violent face-off.

It also emerged that the US is talking to both sides to try and defuse the border crisis. "It is a very tough situation. We are talking to India. We are talking to China. They have got a big problem there. They have come to blows, and we will see what happens. We will try and help them out," US President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held an hour-long meeting with Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and the three service chiefs to assess the LAC situation. Taking independent decisions to deal with the 'belligerence' of the Chinese troops was discussed and re-emphasised, sources said.

The surprise Chinese attack on June 15 on Indian soldiers in Galwan's Patrolling Point 14 with rods and bamboo sticks studded with nails came as a rude shock to the soldiers bound by protocols. "Indian Army's discipline and commitment towards the protocols was misused by the Chinese troops who ambushed them in a planned manner, which led to the loss of 20 lives. Now the commanders are free to improvise their reactions befitting the Chinese actions and to reply them in their own language," a senior officer said.

An important indication came from Finger 4, which has been the most complicated stand-off point. "We have been asked not to hold ourselves but to show strength at Finger 4 after the Galwan incident," a source said.

Weidong's summoning comes days after both sides blamed each other for the June 15 face-off. CONTINUED ON: P7

VERY TOUGH SITUATION

"It is a very tough situation. We are talking to India. We are talking to China. They have got a big problem there," says US President Donald Trump

'China's hostility breaks pattern of three decades'

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

FORMER foreign secretary and former Ambassador to China Nirupama Menon Rao, in an interview to *TNIE*, drew attention to a definite and perceptible change in China's terms of engagement with India, and felt it would be a harbinger of a paradigm shift going into the future.

"We are seeing a very hostile and violently assertive face of China, which is quite at variance with their behaviour in the past three decades of constructive engagement," she said.

Asked if it can ever be business as usual after the Galwan standoff, she said, "I presume there will be a slowing down of bilateral contacts and that a degree of chill will set in the short and possibly medium-term."

On PM Modi's statement not being in sync with the MEA position, she said, "Regrettably, various interpretations about what the PM said were rife. It could have been obviated if immediate steps were taken to clarify what was said." P7

EXPRESS READ

Trump hints at fresh H1-B curbs

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump has said that he will be announcing fresh visa restrictions in a couple of days to block the entry of certain overseas workers. "We are going to be announcing something tomorrow or the next day on the visas," he said in an interview. P8

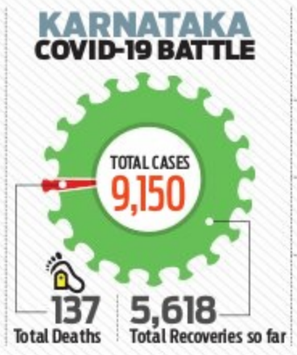
WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex YOUR LIFE. YOUR EDEX
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) & 4 of City Express

GST to be in play during sale of developed plots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

In a ruling that is likely to have far-reaching ramifications in the real estate market, Gujarat's Authority of Advance Ruling (AAR) has ruled that the sale of developed plots of land with primary amenities like power or water connections should attract Goods and Services Tax (GST). The addition of such amenities should be seen as a 'supply of service', the authority held.

While AAR rulings are applicable only to the individual applicant and the jurisdictional tax officer in a particular case, industry experts say this ruling will likely be used as a precedent by other jurisdictions. According to the quasi-judicial body, the sale of 'developed plots', where primary amenities like power, water pipelines or even access roads are included, is not the same as the sale of land. CONTINUED ON: P10



- A Police Assistant Sub-Inspector dies, while 21 cops test positive in Bengaluru
- 14 cops quarantined in Vijayapura after 2 dacoits test positive
- Random testing for coronavirus begins in Dharwad district
- The number of sealed-down areas in Shivamogga increases to 12

IN JUST 2 DAYS, STATE CROSSES 1,000 CASES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA on Sunday saw its fastest and biggest spike in the number of cases, taking the tally from 8,000 to 9,150 in just two days, with 453 cases added in a single day.

Bengaluru saw its biggest daily spike with a whopping 196 cases being reported -- the largest contributor to the Sunday's tally, which has skyrocketed the numbers.

The state also reported five deaths, three of which are from Bengaluru and two from Bidar, taking the Covid-19 toll to 137.

At least 136 of the total 453 cases added on Sunday were patients with Influenza Like Illness (ILI).

The worrisome indicator is the number of days taken to cross each 1,000 cases, which has sharply fallen from 65 days for the first 1,000-mark, to just two days from 8,000 to 9,000.

Also, it took 10 days for the figures to double from 1,000 to 2,000, 11 days to go from 2,000 to 4,000, and 17 days from 4,000 to 8,000, official data showed.

However, with 5,618 recoveries and discharges (225 added on Sunday), the active Covid-19 cases are still under control, at 3,391.

There were cases of super-spreaders in Gadag, Bagalkot and Davanagere districts. FULL REPORT: P4

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

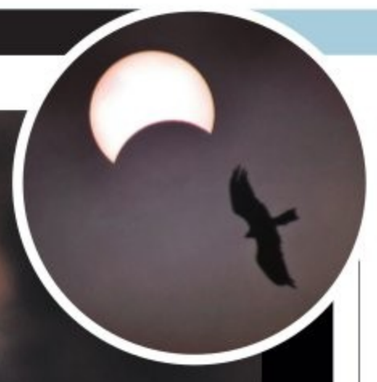
ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday 22/06/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana : Uttharayana • Ritu: Greeshma
• Masa: Ashada • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Prathami 11.28 am • Nakshatra: Ardra 1.36 pm
• Moon in Kataka Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 22°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Rain showers. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 5.55 am
Sunset 6.48 pm
Moonrise 6.39 am
Moonset 9.55 pm

02 BENGALURU MONDAY 22.06.2020 newindianexpress.com

MOMENT IN THE SUN



Bengalureans join enthusiasts across the state to watch the partial solar eclipse despite clouds and corona

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

CLOUDS and Covid-19 did not deter science enthusiasts from soaking in some eclipsed sun and viewing the phenomenon from terrace tops or even by the swimming pool. Many stepped out to take pictures as the sun was obscured partially by the moon which was at farthest from the earth, allowing only a certain percentage of eclipse.

The first solar eclipse of this year coincided with the summer solstice, when the Northern Hemisphere has the longest day. Rationalists and science enthusiasts in the State caught glimpses of the partial solar eclipse that took place between 10.12 am and 1.31pm, which peaked at 11.47 am with a 40 per cent obscuration by the moon.

About 200 members of the Breakthrough Science Society (BSS) Karnataka, those from Rajajinagar, Srirampura, Malleswaram, Horamavu in Bengaluru, and other districts, including Dharwad, Kalaburagi and Davangere viewed the astronomical phenomenon using sun filters and self-constructed pinhole cameras.

"The viewing was organised to spread awareness among people about the eclipse being yet another astronomical event and has nothing to do with superstition," Dipti B, Joint Secretary, BSS Karnataka, told *TNIE*.

Members of the Federation of Indian Rationalist Associations too kept to their routine of viewing every eclipse, to also break the taboos associated with it. "While the streets of Mangaluru were empty with people staying indoors and even temples being closed, we always keep ourselves exposed to the sun as much as possible, particularly during eclipses," said Narendra Nayak, president, Federation of Indian Rationalist Associations.

In 2019 too, members exposed themselves to the eclipsed sun. This year though, due to Covid-19 restrictions, they had to give that up and instead just gathered near the swimming pool at 10 am.

A few families decided to have the usual events in a closed manner, maintaining the social distancing norms. The cloudy weather did not deter them as they managed to have a glimpse of the eclipsed sun using the special viewers and also made a point of eating under the eclipsed sun. "We have been doing this since decades to dispel the superstition that eating during an eclipse causes all sorts of diseases," said Nayak.

Meanwhile, many temples stayed closed during the eclipse and authorities performed cleaning rituals after the phenomenon.

Clockwise from top: The partial solar eclipse as seen in Mysuru; a girl takes a glimpse of the spectacle through a telescope at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru; enthusiasts at Lalbagh Botanical Gardens; a girl watches the eclipse with her father on Sunday, which was also celebrated as Father's Day, near Nehru Planetarium | UDAYSHANKAR S, SHRIRAM BN, MEGHANA SASTRY, NAGARAJA GADEKAL

CHASING SPECTACLE ACROSS KARNATAKA

1. Seeking to dispel superstitious beliefs surrounding eclipses, Murugha Mutt seer Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru witnessed the spectacle in Chitradurga on Sunday. He said there is nothing wrong in watching eclipses
2. In Mysuru, the eclipse brought the feel of the recent pandemic Janata Curfew as a majority of roads and streets in the city wore a deserted look, with people choosing to stay indoors
3. Elaborate rituals were held at Sri Krishna Mutt and other temples in Udupi on account of solar eclipse
4. Temples of Gokarna, Idagunji and Murudeshwar remained closed during the eclipse
5. Across the state, hundreds of people, especially students and children, observed the spectacle that was streamed online, or using x-ray films or filter glasses, or through telescopes in science centres

Prayers being offered at the Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

Low-key affair, but enthusiasts, politicos keep yoga spirit up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

EIGHTY-seven-year-old former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda on Sunday celebrated the spirit of International Yoga Day by sharing a video of him practicing 'asanas'. The JDS patriarch tweeted that yoga is a holistic approach to maintaining physical and mental health.

Amid scare of the pandemic, politicians cutting across party, age and gender lines posted content of them celebrating yoga day at home, offices and community spaces while maintaining safety measures.

Governor Vajubhai Vala and Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa too stressed on the importance of practising yoga regularly as the state celebrated the day in a low-key affair with Covid-19 restrictions in place. The regular venues for yoga day like stadiums, clubs, parks, schools and colleges, and parade grounds across the state wore a deserted look, but politicos took to social media to keep up the spirit of the day.

A statement from the Raj Bhavan said that the Governor practised solo yoga while the staff practiced yoga on the lawns at 6 am.

"Yoga is a gift from India to the world, which was handed down to us by our ancestors. We have to preserve yoga and also need to practice it regularly to celebrate a strong, healthy and meaningful life," Yediyurappa said in a tweet.

From state BJP chief Nalin Kumar Kateel, who performed yoga with BJP office-bearers at the party headquarters, to new entrants to the party like B C Patil and S T Somashekar, posted pictures of asanas.

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi, who represents Dharwad Lok Sabha constituency, too shared his photographs and yoga day message on Twitter, saying it helps in boosting immunity and is the most effective way to combat Covid-19. Leader of opposition in the Karnataka assembly and senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah too endorsed the practice of yoga, asserting that it has had a beneficial impact on his health as well.

Clockwise from above: Yoga enthusiasts at Lalbagh in Bengaluru on Sunday; Congress leader Siddaramaiah and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi keep their date with Yoga Day | MEGHANA SASTRY, EXPRESS

NGT slaps ₹10L fine for lake pollution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed an interim penalty of Rs 10 lakh on the Karnataka government over pollution of the Kithiganahalli Lake near Bommasandra.

A bench, headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, also slapped a fine of Rs 5 lakh on the municipal council of Bommasandra for "failure to discharge its duties in protecting the lake".

The amount for interim compensation should be deposited with the Central Pollution Control Board within one month and can be spent for restoration of the environment, the bench said adding, "The final compensation will be determined after hearing the state and the municipal council."

The tribunal penalised the state government as its failure to check the pollutant discharge into the lake was a "criminal offence".

"Failure of important constitutional obligation by the municipal council as well as apathy and defiance of orders of this tribunal and the Supreme Court by the state authorities is at the cost of environment and public health. It is very unfortunate for which prompt remedial actions must be taken and accountability of erring officers fixed," the bench said.

The tribunal also said that an expert committee could be constituted, if required, to facilitate recovering amounts from erring officials.

The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by Sanjay Rao and others seeking action on Kithiganahalli Lake pollution caused due to dumping of garbage.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

22nd June: The universe is full of wild and wonderful things. Here's one: if you were to look at the smallest known particles through the most powerful microscope, you wouldn't be able to work out both where it is and where it's going. You could do one or the other, but not both. Now some scientists are saying the same rule might apply to bigger things - such as you and me. Well, that would certainly account for some confusion!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
As the Moon sweeps through the most personal reaches of your solar chart you would be well advised to pay urgent attention to matters close to home. Working Ariens will be encouraged to get as far ahead as they can, and not to let random emotions interfere with the working day.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
If there is to be a theme for the week, it should be that arguments can be positive - and that it's good to clear the air. The favourable way to harmonise your life with today's stars is to set out to take decisions and open new lines of communication.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You're still receiving a valuable shot of energy from Mars' relationship with your sign but, in general, the situation is looking rather less organised. So, if you do have practical tasks to complete, you must be sure to step up your level of concentration.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Moon's friendly presence is a definite plus, but the fact that it's your personal ruler is an additional sign that you can afford to raise your sights. If you're making plans for tomorrow, though, understand that circumstances may have changed before twenty-four hours have passed - and that there might be extra costs.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You're about to face some hard decisions, not all of which will be of your own making. Today you can spend as much time as you wish day-dreaming, for your fantasies will point the way to the truth. Mind you, if you want respect, then you'll have to earn it.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
This is a special time of year, and you should move forward with confidence and faith in your future. Set yourself up for a positive time by seeking allies at work and planning social initiatives at home. Just one word of caution though - secret feelings could be about to become public.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
It's time to indulge your ambitions and accept responsibility over others. This is something you often tend to avoid, in spite of the fact that, as current developments should demonstrate, you are able to handle your duties with unique skill.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Pay attention to the legal situation and make sure that you are well aware of your rights. It's a positive moment for travel, although any delays could be caused by family members or home commitments. Take simple precautions now and you'll thank yourself in future.

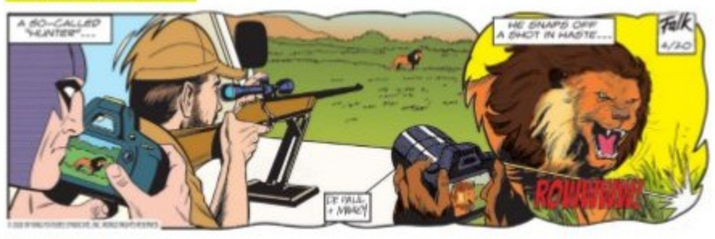
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
The strongest emerging theme in your solar chart is a desire for prestige and status, and this will obviously help those of you planning professional promotion. Your daily planetary patterns, though, focus on your need to sort out joint financial affairs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You must pay extra attention to family members' needs today, for if they are not satisfied they have ways, even unintentionally, of sabotaging your hopes in return. Scratch their backs and they'll scratch yours. That's the way the world works!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Stay busy and realise that a day spent coping with routine chores need not be dull. Also, check up on your physical situation and take steps to get in shape, cleaning up your diet and exercise. After all, your body is a shrine, as the mystics always tell us.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
It's a fair day for taking some time off and indulging in a private affair or devoting a little time to an artistic activity. If unavoidable commitments beckon, try to make them as personally enjoyable as possible. There's no point in suffering when you don't have to!

THE PHANTOM



HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

I GOT A RAISE IN MY ALLOWANCE!
YOUR PARENTS GIVE YOU AN ALLOWANCE?!
SURE. AS LONG AS I BRUSH MY TEETH, CLEAN MY ROOM AND GET TO BED ON TIME!
4-21

BLONDIE

I HEARD A FUNNY RUMOR AT SCHOOL TODAY THAT'S SO OVER-THE-TOP I'M AFRAID TO REPEAT IT
SERIOUSLY? I DID TOO!
WHAT DID YOU HEAR?
I'D BETTER NOT SAY
TEXT IT TO ME, THEN!
PERFECT! HANG ON

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

					2	1		5
				9				
		2	3			8	9	
		4	8		9			6
	2						5	
9			4		3	2		
	3	8			4	6		
				7				
1		9	2					

EVIL

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

8	7	9	6	5	1	4	2	3
6	3	5	4	2	8	1	9	7
2	1	4	3	7	9	8	6	5
3	9	1	8	6	7	2	5	4
4	2	7	9	1	5	6	3	8
5	6	8	2	3	4	9	7	1
7	5	6	1	4	2	3	8	9
1	8	3	7	9	6	5	4	2
9	4	2	5	8	3	7	1	6

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MAFYO
EEZSI
TOONNI
MIGATB

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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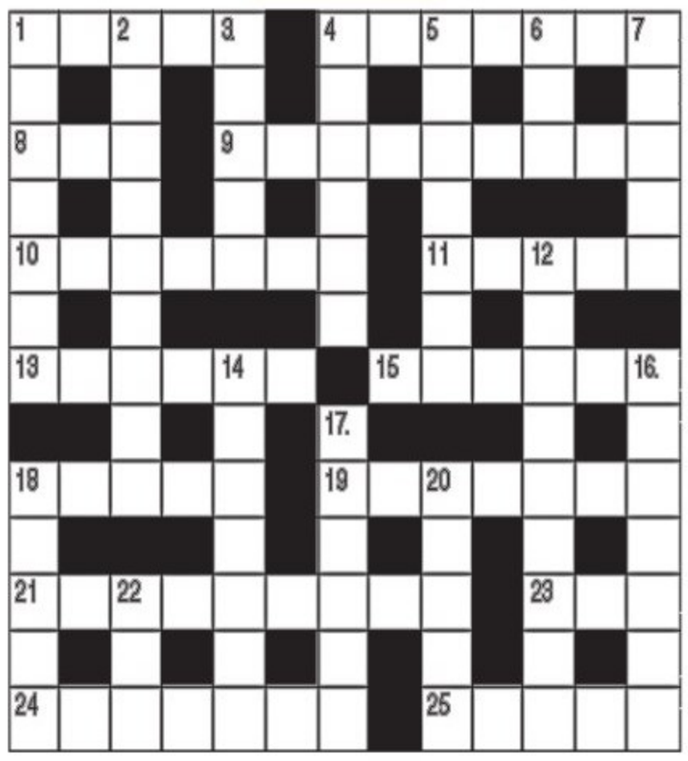
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"○○○○○○" ○ ○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: RIGOR ROBOT STEREO MASCOT
Answer: They bought the run-down corner market and planned to — RESTORE IT

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Not before time (5)
4 Angela's cooked an Italian dish (7)
8 It's sticky stuff to chew (3)
9 Chided for having a bun perhaps (9)
10 I'd sent a replacement as a substitute (7)
11 Be successful with a superior suit (5)
13 How the issue is expected to develop (4,2)
15 Suitable voice for a trio? (6)
18 She will briefly appear in a case (5)
19 Fix the score to suit the players (7)
21 Hardly the type to make a good lookout (9)
23 Hard stuff that makes slippers (3)
24 Before that goes around, or at that point (7)
25 On the one hand, quite justified (5)

DOWN

1 The protracted use of lines? (7)
2 To a doctor something precious may be his last tablet (9)
3 Trick includes nothing to cause provocation (5)
4 I'd boil uncontrollably with desire (6)
5 Course for beginners (7)
6 Deity to follow in retreat (3)
7 Finally make a profit? (3,2)
12 Stiff - but relaxing (9)
14 Liberate one soul in torment (7)
16 Basic substance used in heating (7)
17 Obvious protection for inventive types (6)
18 Rapid writer (5)
20 Reversible revolver (5)
22 Stand a drink, we hear (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Striptease, 8 Skins, 9 Villain, 10 Creator, 11 Gusto, 12 No dice, 14 Possum, 17 Stair, 19 Oil well, 21 Utopian, 22 Savoy, 23 Nightdress.

Down: 2 Tail end, 3 Inset, 4 Tavern, 5 Allegro, 6 Exams, 7 Informally, 8 Seconds out, 13 Curling, 15 Sleeves, 16 Sonnet, 18 Adorn, 20 Loser.

Altogether, 110 alleged benami properties owned by Kannada film producer Anand Appugol and his associates will be auctioned if a court application filed by the local administration in Belagavi is okayed. Appugol, who was chairman of Sangolli Rayanna Cooperative Society, allegedly cheated thousands of depositors to the tune of ₹250 crore

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Post with a fat price tag

With the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board chairman's position vacant, the movers and shakers in the government went into a huddle to choose the next candidate. While the institution has had good and environmentally-conscious officers like Hanumantha Rao, Capt Raja Rao, Upendra Tripathi and others in its early days, its standards seem to have fallen, like many other government bodies. While norms suggest that the candidate needs to have a master's degree and other criteria, it is being said that deep pockets are also a must. Last heard, some mining consultant was eyeing the position.

Aspirants blow trumpet loud and hard

Appointing karyakarthas Prathap Simha Nayak, Iranna Kadadi and Ashok Gasti has started a flurry of activity within the BJP. The party needs to fill up five nomination posts in the Legislative Council, and a record number of applications have been pouring in, with the authors taking great pains to explain to the party leadership how they will benefit the party, if appointed. Some have highlighted their achievements, others who had none, have stressed their caste or regional importance. Which led one insider to quip that these letters of 'self-recommendation' and 'self-importance' need to be taken with a big pinch of salt -- for they will have the reader believe that they are the most important leaders in the party. After CM Yediyurappa, that is.

DAD'S DAY OUT

A migrant worker shares a candid moment with his child while they wait for a shuttle to Chikkabanavara Railway Station, at Palace Grounds on Sunday | MEGHANA SASTRY

Vishwanath, Surana top contenders for BJP Council nomination seats

Madhusudhan, Yogeshwar too in race; Party faces tough task as many make a pitch

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AFTER winning four out of seven seats in the Legislative Council in round one quite comfortably, the BJP is now facing an uphill task putting together a list of candidates, who are to be nominated to the House of Elders by the end of this month.

The pressure is now on Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to pick former Janata Dal president Adagur H Vishwanath, who is being strongly backed by the 17 Congress and JDS rebels. He was expected to be in the first list of four, but when he did not make it, the former Congress and JDS leaders, who were instrumental in propping the BJP government over a year ago, spoke out and also met Yediyurappa to push his nomination.

Another strong contender is BJP state vice-president and former MLA Nirmal Surana who, many say, has been more active than president Nalin Kumar Kateel in taking crucial decisions and in drawing up party strategies.

Among the list of probables is Go Madhusudhan, who is a party spokesman and former MLC. Party sources said that he can defend the party well in the council that is largely dependent on Ravi Kumar now. But Madhusudhan is at a disadvantage as the camp that is said to be opposed to Yediyurappa is also against him.

The nomination of Vokkaliga and Channapatna strongman C P Yogeshwar too is being considered by the party leadership as he was instrumental in putting together the BJP government 13 months ago with the help of 17 rebel Congress and JDS MLAs, sources said.

Apart from these front-liners, scores of others from Mahila Morcha, farmers', SC/ST, OBC and minority wings of the party and office-bearers from districts have been bidding for seats, the sources added.

Power play: Congress brings back veterans to State politics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH their respective choices, the messaging is clear. While the BJP is seeking to consolidate itself, the Grand Old Party is making some shrewd political moves by bringing back veterans to State politics – Mallikarjun Kharge via Rajya Sabha and B K Hariprasad, one of its Legislative Council candidates.

"Congress' choice of former leader of opposition Mallikarjuna Kharge and its backing for former PM H D Deve Gowda brings two heavyweight front benchers to the opposition ranks. Kharge, a seasoned warhorse, was Congress chief ministerial face in 2008. He enjoys the considerable backing of the Scheduled Castes in the State and has done well as leader of opposition in Parliament," say political observers.

Mallikarjuna Kharge

B K Hariprasad

While Siddaramaiah prevailed in bringing Naseer Ahmed to the Legislative Council, the High Command's decision to field former AICC General Secretary and backward classes leader B K Hariprasad is aimed at projecting a prominent Ediga face. The backward Ediga (toddy tapper) community has a large presence in Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Shivamogga districts but also impacts electoral politics in Mysuru, Koppal, Tumakuru and Kalaburagi districts. This community has so far been largely seen to be with BJP's (late) S Bangarappa, former CM under Congress who joined BJP belonged to this community and Congress has tried very hard to woo them back.

Political analyst Harish Ramaswamy said, "Kharge is important. Without him, it is difficult for the party to make an impact. Hariprasad has served at AICC, he has been outspoken against Siddaramaiah. What is more important for the Congress is that they will choose their leader in Delhi as this will have a larger bearing on the party"

Brand guru and political analyst Harish Bijoor said, "As far as names go, the Congress is playing a shrewd bit of politics. It is hungry to be in the saddle when it is poll time again. The choice of Mallikarjuna Kharge is about preserving the status quo of the old regime. This does also balance the fact that there is a vibrant chief ministerial face in D K Shivakumar at the state level. Hariprasad is a trusted lieutenant of the party and has been rewarded. The party has got its onions right in Karnataka."

CRIME PATROL

3 die in accident while popping wheelies

Three people died in an accident while popping wheelies and performing stunts on two-wheelers on Sunday morning on Ballari Road. Md Adi Ayan (19) and Syed Riyaz (21) left home early in the morning without informing their parents. They were performing stunts side-by-side while riding at high speed when they crashed into each other. Two of them died on the spot while the third was declared brought dead after being rushed to a nearby hospital, police said. Passersby alerted Yelahanka traffic police. Police filed a suo motu case and further investigations are on. **ENS**

Duo arrested in loan fraud case

A banking fraud to the tune of ₹1.50 crore was averted by the alert staffers of a Canara Bank branch. The accused are arrested. On June 15, two men walked into a Canara Bank branch to avail a housing loan for one of them. "The loanee submitted documents. The bank staffers suspected something amiss on noticing multiple enquiries from other financial institutions and sought additional ID proof. The CIBIL report generated on new ID proof revealed several loans availed from other banks. The report disclosed that the person is holding another PAN card. The branch alerted the police and based on their instruction, they informed the accused to visit the bank on Saturday and got them arrested. **ENS**

Sanitisation done, 'Krishna' and secretariat back to business today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AFTER a Covid-19 scare set alarm bells ringing at the Chief Minister's Home Office 'Krishna', Vidhana Soudha and Vikasa Soudha, mandating a thorough sanitisation, the Secretariat and Krishna will return to business as usual starting Monday. After two days of closure, the Chief Minister's official residence will be hosting two meetings on Monday. The official home office was shut after a staffer's kin tested positive for Covid-19. Meanwhile, a government employee had also tested positive at Vikasa Soudha, resulting in the twin buildings, including the larger Vidhana Soudha, being sanitised over the weekend.

As of now, employees above the age of 55 have been asked to work on a rotational basis with 30 per cent strength at the Secretariat. "Despite our staff testing positive, no additional measures are being undertaken. The temperature checks and sanitiser dispenser at the entrance are clearly not enough. The Health Department is not issuing permission to install disinfectant tunnels," said an official from the Water Resources Department, sharing the employees' worries.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorised Officer of India Infoline Finance Limited. under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on **"AS IS WHERE IS & AS IS WHAT IS"**, particulars of which are given below:-

Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Physical Possession	Description of the Immovable property
1.M/s.Shivbhoj Hotels & Restaurants Pvt. Ltd. 2. Mr. AshvinShivanand Shetty 3. Mr. ShivanandBhoja Shetty 4. Mr. Balkrishna Shetty 5. M/s. Shirt Company India Pvt. Ltd. (Prospect No.**733629 & 716532**)	**20-Feb-2018** **Rs.11,79,86,666/-** (Rupees Eleven Crore Seventy Nine Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Six only)	**27–June–2020** **Total Outstanding** as on **On 18-June-2020** **Rs.13,12,00,344/-** (Rupees Thirteen Crore Twelve Lakh Three Hundred and Forty Four Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing 01-A/35/1, Industrial Subrub, Tumkur Road, Yeshwanthpur Bazar, Division No.8, Opposite RNS Motors, Bangalore, Karnataka.**(Area:-56000 sqft as per document & 50936 Sqft as per actual)**

Reserve Price(Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
Rs.32,75,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Two Crore Seventy Five Lakh Only)	**Rs.3,27,50,000/-**(Rupees Three Crore Twenty Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)

Date of Inspection of Property 08-July-2020 1100 hrs-1400 hrs	EMD Last Date 10-July-2020 till 5 pm.	Date/ Time of Auction 13-July-2020 1100 hrs-1300 hrs	**Concerned Branch:-** India Infoline Finance Ltd., No 11, FF, Adams Chamber, Richmond Road, Bangalore, Karnataka 560025(Authorized officer: **ShaikShawali@ 9900260101**)

1.Date of inspection of the immovable property is **08-July-2020** between **1100 hrs - 1400 hrs.**
2.Last date of submission of sealed offers in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD is **10-July-2020** till 5 pm at the branch office address.
3.Date of opening of the offers for the Property is **13-July-2020** at the above mentioned branch office address at **1100 hrs - 1300 hrs** the tender will be opened in the presence of the Authorised Officer.
4.Further interest will be charged as applicable, as per the Loan Agreement on the amount outstanding in the notice and incidental expenses, costs, etc., is due and payable till its realization.
5.The notice is hereby given to the Borrower and Guarantor, to remain present personally at the time of sale and they can bring the intending buyers/purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of Terms and Conditions of Sale.
6.The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given **15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002** to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction failing which the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to India Infoline Finance Limited in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.
7.The EMD shall be payable through DD in favour of "India Infoline Finance Limited" payable at GURUGRAM and shall be submitted at the concerned branch/ Corporate Office.
8.The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available at the above branch office.
9.The immovable property will be sold to the highest tenderer.However, the undersigned reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary.
10.Tenders that are not filled up or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
11.Company is not responsible for any liabilities upon the property which is not in the knowledge of the company.
For further details, contact Mr. Sanjay Jha @ 9560908318, Email:-sanjay.jha@iifl.com **Corporate Office :** Plot No. 98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122015.

Place: Bangalore **Date:** 22-06-2020 **Sd/- Authorised Officer For India Infoline Finance Ltd. (IIFL)**

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -2 AT BENGALURU
No. 4, LIC Building, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560025
OA No. 967/2019
BETWEEN
State Bank Of India
RACPC Lalbagh Road, No.73, Bestowal, 1st floor,Lalbagh Road, Sudhamanagar, Bangalore - 560027. ..... **Applicant**
AND
Smt. Leelavathi. C.G.
and Others .....**Defendants**
To
3. Sri. N.D. Ravi
S/o Sri Doraiswamy Raju, No.2, 10th Main, Vyalikaval, Bangalore - 560003
Also at
No.2, Devasandra, Off BEL Road, Bangalore - 560094
Summons Issued Under Rule23(viii) of The Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules 1993 by Paper Publication.
Whereas the applicant has instituted the application under section 19 of The Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against you to repay the applicant bank a sum of **Rs.31,89,358/-** together with current and future interest plus other charges. You are hereby summoned to appear before the tribunal in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit on **09/07/2020 at 11.00am.**
Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned , the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the tribunal on this **17th day of June 2020.**
By Order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that, My client Sri. P. Krishnamurthy, S/o Puttaswamachar .C.G, Aged about 70 years, residing at No. A-726, Brundavana, M.G. Road, Near Ishwara Temple, Channapattana, Ramanagara District, intend to purchase the immovable Residential Property bearing No.188/G, BDA Khata No. 188/G in 9th Block of Arkavathi Layout (Sy.No. 46/2 of Amruthahalli Village), Bengaluru, Measuring East to West 9.00 mtrs. North to South 6.00 mtrs, totally measuring 54.00 sq.mtrs., bounded on the East by: Road, West by: Site No. AH-10, North by: Site No. 188/F, South by: Site No. AH-8, from its present owner Sri. Nanjegowda .B.C, S/o R. Chandrappa. If any per son/per sons/authorities/any legal entity, are having any objections/claims/rights/ interest/official orders / directions, are hereby informed & requested to submit their claims/objections with supporting documents / official orders, within 7 days from today. If not, it will be treated that, the property is free from all types of encumbrances, and my Client will be at liberty to complete the sale transactions with Sri. Nanjegowda .B.C.
MAHESH R., Advocate
No.438, II Floor, "KRUPA ARCADE", 6th Main Road, Rajajinagar II Stage, Malleswaram West Post, 17th Cross, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Mobile : 98451 44043

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner **Sri K. SADHASHIVAN,** S/o.KunjiReddy, **No:15/6** old No:06, situated at Kulama Siddanna Garden formerly Sappers Road and also known as Famina Road Hallasuru, Bangalore, having purchased the same from the Sri.V.Ramamurthy, S/o.Vadivellu Pillai.
If anyone having Claim, right over the Schedule Property may intimate the same to the undersigned within 15 Days failing which it will be deemed that nobody else has claim over the property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the **Site No:15/6,** old No:06 and than No:15 situated at Kulame Siddanna Garden [formerly Sappers Road and also known as Famina Road,] Hallasuru now comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No:82, Earlier Bangalore City Corporation Division No:80, Hoysalanagara having its **PID No:82-4-15/6,** Bangalore-560008. And bounded on the East by: P. Raja Reddy Property West by:Narayana Reddy PropertyNorth by:P.Yellappa Reddy Property South by: 25 feet wide Road Common Passage
Measuring on the East to West – Northern Side 30 Feet. **Southern Side 28 Feet North to South Eastern side 33 feet Western Side 35 feet in all measuring 986 square feet.** Along with constructed dwelling house with Ground floor.
B.B. SUDHIR, Advocates.
No:334,09th Main,14th Cross, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038
Mob:98450 22593

PUBLIC NOTICE / INFORMATION TO PUBLIC

It has come to our knowledge that one Sri Bhagwan Singh has commenced a Trust / School in the Name & Style of BMS Health Educational Trust & established BMS International School, Kaggalipura, Bangalore and claims to be the Chairman of the Trust.

This is to inform the general Public that **BMS Educational Trust** or any of its Institutions are in no way associated or connected with BMS Health Educational Trust & BMS International School, Kaggalipura, Bangalore.

Any person dealing with BMS Health Educational Trust & BMS International School, Kaggalipura, Bangalore will be doing so at their own risk and consequences.

Management
BMS Educational Trust
BULL TEMPLE ROAD, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560019

The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited
H.O, No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560 018.
PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sri S.V.Shreyakar, S/o Sri Vishnu, R/a No.465, Block No.1, Katha No.3029, Lingadheeranahalli Village, "D" Group Layout, Andarahalli Main Road, Sunkadakhate, Vishwaneedham Post, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560091, The debt due to Bank as on **15.06.2020** of **Rs.64,04,406/-** + Interest & miscellaneous expenses. Auction sale under the securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforce of Security Interest Act 2002 Section 13(4) of the Immovable properties mortgaged to The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., is brought to Sale under **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"on 22.07.2020, Wednesday at 11.00 am.**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Item No.1

All that piece and parcel of the house constructed on the site bearing No.50, in new Katha No.670 & PID Katha No.9/3/50, Doddabettahalli Village Panchayat, Chikkabettahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet, in all measuring 1200 sq.ft., & bounded on the East by: Site No.51, West by: Site No.49, North by: Private Property & South by: Road.

Item No.1

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing site No.465, Block No.1. Katha No.3029. Lingadheeranahalli Village, Herohalli Village, Yeshwanthapur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 20 feet, in all measuring 600 sq.ft., & bounded on the East by: Site No.468, West by: 25 Feet Road, North by: Site No.466 & South by: Site No.464.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(1) The public auction will be conducted in the premises of the Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Head Office No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560 018.
(2) For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to deposit an amount equivalent to 10% of the Reserve price of both the properties is Rs.10,53,500/- being cautioned deposit. The cautioned deposit shall be forfeited by the bank without any prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time and commits default in any manner.
(3) The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount on the same day at the time of sale in cash/DD to the GMCB Ltd. and the balance within 15 days from the date of sale.
(4) The successful bidders shall bear all expenses like stamp duty, Registration fee etc., for getting the sale certificate Registered in his/her favour.
(5) The authorized officer shall have powers to accept or reject bids or postpone/cancel the auction without assigning any reasons thereof.
(6) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending bidder may contact the undersigned at the GMCB Ltd., or through Telephone, they are at liberty to make their own assessment/enquiry about the property. Balance of tax and others charges has to be bourned by purchaser.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 15.06.2020

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co Operative Bank Ltd.,
26677552, 26506279

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MILTON NIRANJAN, Residing at No. 15/2, Cline Road, Cooke Town, St.Thomas Town, Bangalore-84, have changed my Minor Son's name from **KENNETH PAUL** to **KENNETH PAUL.M** vide affidavit Dated 19/6/2020 sworn before Notary C. Santhosh, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VENKAT MANI, S/o Sthanu Subramanium (V.S. Mani), aged about 64 years, resident of No.A3, Sree Krishna Garden Apartment, 1st Cross, 3rd Main, M.M. Layout, Kavalbyrasandra, R.T Nagar Post, Near Indian Oil Bunk, Bengaluru-560032, have changed my name from **MANI.S. VENKATACHALAM V.S. MANI @ VENKATACHALAM STHANU SUBRAMANIUM** to **"VENKAT MANI"**. vide affidavit dated 18/03/2020, sworn to before Notary H.H. Nagaraj, at Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sunil Kumar S/o. late. Sajjan Raj R/a #59, "sanskar", Ratna Vilas Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-04. Declare That at the time of admission of our **Daughter SANIKA** We Had Given Our Names as
1. Student's Name as SANIKA. S.
2. Father's Name as SUNIL SANKHALA
3. Mother's Name as ANJU SANKHALA
Now, we want our Names to be changed as per our Aadhar Card as
1. Student's Name as SANIKA.
2. Father's Name as SUNIL KUMAR
3. Mother's Name as ANJU
Vide Affidavit Dated: 16-06-2020
Sworn Before Notary Meera, H. Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **LAKSHMI SINDHU,** R/o No. 50, 3rd Cross, KCL Layout, J.P. Nagar 8th Phase, Kothanur Bus Stop, Bangalore-78, Karnataka, India do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SINDHU V.** to **LAKSHMI SINDHU,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **LAKSHMI SINDHU** only for all practical purposes, vide affidavit dated 19th June 2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. DAKSHAHINI** at Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the General public that my client intend to purchase the Schedule property more fully described in the schedule hereunder, from its owner **Sri. PIYUSH S SHAH,** S/o.Sri.Shanthilal A Shah, Residing at Flat No.21, 2nd Floor, Vaibhav Apartment, No.85, Gandhibazaar Main Road, Bangalore-560004.
Any person/s, institutions, has/have any claim/objection to the said sale of the schedule property by the said owner, may lodge their claim /objections along with documents with the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the event of no claim or objections are received, it is deemed that there are no claim or objections to the said sale of the schedule property and my client will proceed for registration of the schedule property. Objections received thereafter will not bind my client whatsoever.
SCHEDULE
All the piece and parcel of the vacant residential property bearing **BDA Site No.501, BBMP khatha No.440/501, situated at 2nd Block, 2nd phase, BTM 6th stage, Bangalore, measuring East –West 80 ft, North-South 50 ft, totally measuring 4000 Sq.ft** and bounded on the:
EAST BY : Road
WEST BY : Site No.486 & Site No.487
NORTH BY : Site No.500
SOUTH BY : Site No.502
M.S. MANJUNATH, ADVOCATE, No.F-4, First floor, BASCO Complex, Gandhibazaar circle, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004, Ph:080-26673086 / 9845025702

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
DIRECTORATE OF VETY. & A.H.SERVICES
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Imphal, the 15th June, 2020

No.SH/3/55/95-VETY(Pt.V) : Sealed tenders are invited in prescribed format from experienced and reputed firms / suppliers / manufactures / distributors / authorized dealers for supply of **Livestock and Poultry Feed and Fodder (Concentrate feed, Dry & Green Fodder)** for a sum of Rs.80.00 lakhs (approximately) for use of the Veterinary Institutions of Vety. & A.H.Services, Manipur for the year 2020-21.

The detail Tender Documents (Non-Transferable) including List of items can be downloaded from the website **www.manipurtenders.gov.in** on payment of Rs.1,000/- (Rupees one thousand) only as Tender Fee through A/C payee Demand Draft drawn from any Nationalized Bank payable in favour of Director, Vety. & A.H. Services, Manipur. The Tender documents shall be submitted on the date specified given below.

Important Dates

Downloading of Tender Document	.....	15/6/2020
Last Date of seeking clarification	.....	22/6/2020
Last Date of uploading of Tender	.....	6/7/2020 upto 3:00 PM
Physical Submission of EMD & Tender Fee	.....	9/7/2020 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	.....	13/7/2020 at 11:30 AM
Date of Opening of Price Bid	.....	shall be decided by the Tender Committee

Sd/- (H.Chaoba Singh)
Director, Vety. & A.H.Services, Manipur.

QuoteExpress

DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING

› SAM LEVENSON

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU MONDAY 22.06.2020

TRACKING COVID-19

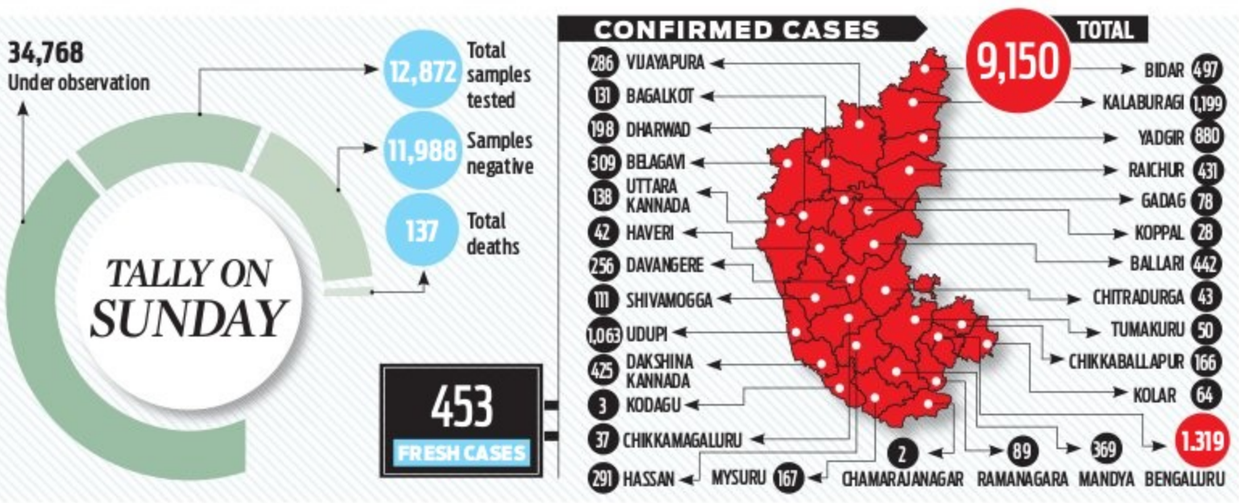
In order to check transportation of patients to Covid hospitals, quarantine centres, and for surveillance, the government has formed a new committee to frame rules and circulate it to BBMP and Asha workers. Tushar Girinath, Principal Secretary of Corporation Department will be in charge of the transport committee

225 NEW RECOVERIES

5,618 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too



Antigen test promises quick results

Big plus for testing: Kits cheaper than RT-PCR; Karnataka likely to place order soon

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

THE State government is ready to try the rapid antigen-based testing method for Covid-19, which was approved by ICMR recently. It gives faster results compared to the RT-PCR method, and also detects the virus, unlike the rapid antibody test which detects antibodies.

Nodal officer for Covid-19 testing in the state, Dr C N Manjunath, who is also director of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research said, "Two to three weeks after the kits are made available by the company — SD Biosensor — we might place an order. It is also diagnostic, like RT-PCR. It can provide results in 5-10 minutes, unlike RT-PCR, which takes six to eight hours. TrueNat and CBNAAT tests take two hours, but can only test a small number of samples at a time."

It is cost-effective, at ₹450 per sample, as opposed to RT-PCR, which costs around ₹2,000. It does not require a sophisticated lab set-up or pose a bio-safety hazard. It can be used at the field level to diagnose the virus, Dr Manjunath added.

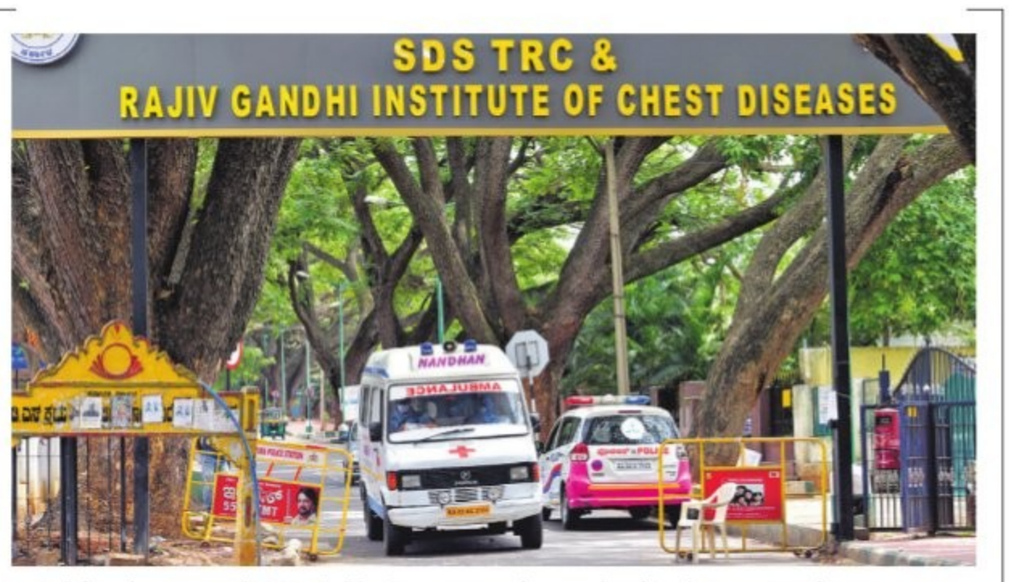
Dr Sujay Prasad, technical director of Neuberg Diagnostics, which tests Covid samples, said antigen testing involves taking a nasal swab from the person, and the test detects the spike protein. "If the result is positive, it is a true positive, but if it is negative, a sample will have to be sent for RT-PCR testing, for confirmation. This is because the specificity (ability to detect the virus correctly) of antigen test is 99.6 per cent, but the sensitivity (ability to pick up negatives clearly) is only 50 per cent. If there are 100 cases, the test can identify only 50 of them as positive for coronavirus," Dr Prasad explained.

While the time taken to get results is faster than that of RT-PCR, there are some practical difficulties. "The ICMR has said that viral transport medium used in RT-PCR cannot be used for antigen. The manufacturing company has said that a different buffer, which is like a viral transport medium, will have to be used for this test. The swab has to be taken twice, one for antigen testing and another to be sent for RT-PCR confirmatory test, in case the result is negative," Dr Prasad said.

One practical difficulty is that the antigen test has to be done within one hour of collection, he added.

The big benefit is that it can be done at the field level — by a hospital or nursing home — and all samples need not be sent to a central lab.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare department, Jawaid Akhtar said, "We are planning to use both antibody and antigen test. The antigen test will help us find the virus load, but it has to be supported by RT-PCR test. The government of India got approval for antigen test just a fortnight ago, and we are also planning to do it. However, the kits have to be procured."



An ambulance leaves gates of RGICD, which has been receiving a huge number of Covid cases, in Bengaluru | MEGHANA SASTRY

FLOOD OF PATIENTS EXHAUSTS RGICD STAFF

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

EVER since the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases (RGICD), which was looking into only Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) cases, turned into a Covid-designated hospital on Thursday, it is being flooded with coronavirus cases, exhausting the short-staffed facility.

RGICD got the Covid tag after Victoria Hospital started running out of beds, and now, cases are being diverted here. The hospital has a team of 15 doctors and a few nurses, who have to take care of SARI and ILI cases, Covid patients and also people coming in with other conditions.

Dr C Nagaraj, Director, RGICD, said, "The work load has increased now, and we have been involved in the Covid battle since day one. We are all working tirelessly and none of our doctors and nurses have taken a holiday. With an overload of patients now, it is getting difficult for us. We have asked the government to assign us doctors from the Bangalore Medical College Research Institute (BMCRI) and they have agreed to send 20 doctors. Once they come in, the situation will improve."

RGICD had 104 beds dedicated for Covid patients, but by Sunday, in a span of four days, all the beds are full. "We did not expect so many patients. With the government recently deciding to take the services of private hospitals, the burden on our hospital and other government facilities will reduce," he said.

But a video from the hospital's Covid ward went viral where patients are seen complaining about bad facilities and food, and lack of hygiene. Dr Nagaraj has set up a dedicated war room to look into the needs of patients.

"The patients needed toiletries and different cuisines. But we are giving them what dieticians suggested. However, we have set up a war room and doctors are individually asking patients what they require and we are providing it. We are now double-checking their needs," he said.

Girish Kumar, a patient at the Covid ward, said, "We don't have any problems now. All the facilities are in place."

Psychiatry ICU block in NIMHANS sealed after patient tests +ve

Bengaluru: NIMHANS Psychiatry emergency and ICU building was sealed after a 34-year-old woman who was in pre-operative care, tested positive on Saturday. Her swab was taken before she went for operation. Emergency and Psychiatric ICU services also started in the adjacent block. As she was placed in the holding area, four patients adjacent to her were quarantined in another block, after she was shifted to Victoria Hospital. Also, 20 other patients were shifted to a different block as precautionary measure. Another 30-year-old woman who had come to the Neurosurgery block tested positive. "As the person was confined to her bed, no one will be quarantined. Seven patients, who were in the same ward are under observation and their swab will be collected," said Dr Shashidhara HN, specialist grade psychiatrist and resident medical officer at NIMHANS. Another female hospital assistant, working in another psychiatry ward tested positive.

KIMS doctor tests positive, sets off scare

ENS @Hubballi

TENSION prevailed among doctors and staff at KIMS Hospital in Hubballi, after a 52-year-old doctor from the pathology department tested positive on Saturday.

He is the first KIMS doctor to test positive, after a pediatrician in Dharwad district. The specialist, who works in a private hospital, is under treatment at KIMS Hospital in Hubballi. It is said that he was infected by a schoolteacher's husband.

The KIMS doctor is a resident of Kempageri Oni in Dharwad and has a laboratory where he used to work after duty hours. He teaches students at the pathology department and his primary contacts include students, doctors and other medical staff in Hubballi and Dharwad.

He was suffering from Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and underwent a test.

KIMS Medical College was disinfected and Kempageri Oni was sealed, with the administration restricting entry and exit of people to the area, except for emergency services. According to KIMS doctors, the district surveillance officer has identified his primary contacts, who will be tested for Covid-19. Swab collection of the staff will begin on Monday.

The new positive case, which has no direct contact with Covid-19 doctors and nurses, has created panic among other staff.

Bengaluru sees highest daily spike, 5 more deaths take state toll to 137

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

An ambulance driver wearing PPE waits near Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru on Sunday | PANDARINATH B

IN just two days, Covid-19 cases jumped from 8,000 to 9,150 in Karnataka, with 453 reported on June 21. Of the 453 cases, 136 were patients with Influenza Like Illness (ILI).

Bengaluru saw its highest daily spike with 196 cases, of which 102 are ILI patients and 67 are having their contacts traced. Eight of the patients from the city were contacts of a former patient with code number 2030.

Five more deaths were reported on Sunday, taking the toll to 137. These include three patients in Bengaluru and two in Bidar. A 53-year-old woman with ILI, fever, cold, cough and thyroid disease was admitted on June 10 and passed away in Bengaluru on Saturday. A 62-year-old male with ILI, fever, diabetes who was admitted on June 16, died the same day in the city. A 55-year-old man with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI), pneumonia, respiratory distress, obesity and chronic alcoholism was admitted on June 18 and passed away two days later in Bengaluru.

The two deaths from Bidar include a 70-year-old man who suffered loss of appetite, weakness and hypertension. He was admitted to hospital and passed away on June 18. The other includes a 46-year-old man, who was admitted on June 17 and passed away a day later.

Eleven out of 40 cases in Ballari were people with ILI, 29 out of 39 cases in Kalaburagi were returnees from Maharashtra. While 28 out of 39 cases in Vijayapura were from containment zones, 9 out of 18 cases in Mysuru were returnees from Bengaluru.

Bidar saw 13 cases, Dakshina Kannada 7, Uttara Kannada and Kolar 8 each, Mandya and Hassan reported 5 each, Tumakuru 4, Yadagiri, Chikkaballapura and Haveri saw 3 each, Raichur, Shivamogga and Ramanagara 2 each and Chikkamagaluru 1.

There were cases of super spreaders in Gadag, Bagalkot and Davangere districts.

Shivakumar calls for voluntary lockdown in Kanakapura till July 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CONGRESS State president and Kanakapura MLA D K Shivakumar on Sunday appealed for a 'voluntary lockdown' in his constituency till July 1. As on Sunday, Ramanagara district had 82 active cases.

At an emergency meeting called by Shivakumar to review the Covid-19 situation in his constituency, it was decided to follow a voluntary lockdown to arrest the spread of coronavirus. His brother and Bengaluru Rural MP D K Suresh, MLC S Ravi, Ramaganara District Commissioner M S Archana, Superintendent of Police Anoop Shetty were among those present.

The decision was welcomed by representatives of political parties, resident welfare associations, vendors and businessmen association, social and citizen groups.

"Self-imposition of a lockdown is necessary to stop the spread of Covid-19. But this has got nothing to do with the State government's orders on lockdown. This is an independent, voluntary initiative by the people of Kanakapura as a measure," said Shivakumar.

He said the next course of action will be decided after July 1.

At the meeting, it was proposed that groceries, vegetables, fruits, meat etc will be available between 7 am and 11 am every day. While the district administration will decide on the timings of medical stores and clinics, excise department officials and liquor store owners' association will decide on the timings of liquor stores.

Following complaints of Covid-19 patients and those in quarantine facilities not getting enough food, Shivakumar said, "The government is providing just ₹60 per patient per day in isolation and quarantine facilities. The DKS Charitable Foundation will add ₹100 to that amount. I am also willing to purchase clothes, pillows, blankets for government quarantine facilities if needed."

This has got nothing to do with the State government's orders on lockdown. This is an independent, voluntary initiative by the people of Kanakapura as a measure

D K Shivakumar, Congress state president and Kanakapura MLA

KHAKHI AT RISK

Cops in line of Covid fire after dacoits test +ve

MAHESH M GODUAR @Bagalkot/Vijayapura

WHAT'S scarier — the coronavirus? Or dacoits? Or dacoits with the virus? It's Catch-22 for cops on the duty frontline, with two alleged dacoits testing positive in Vijayapura, after they were remanded in judicial custody.

Immediately, 14 police personnel, including two sub-inspectors, the judge and legal staff at the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court of Sindagi were placed under quarantine.

The police had arrested three dacoits in connection with a case reported in Almel police station jurisdiction, on June 17. The trio was put through a medical test, and their throat swab samples were collected before they were presented in court the same day. On June 20, test results of two of the dacoits came positive, and they were moved to hospital from central prison.

The health authorities have identified as many as 39 police personnel as primary and secondary contacts. Throat swab samples were collected from the 14 policemen who were placed under institutional quarantine. The district administration advised the judge and legal staff of the JMFC court of Sindagi to remain in quarantine.

SP Anupam Agarwal told TNIE, "The primary and secondary contacts of the dacoits have been identified, and 39 are from the police department. The three dacoits had been placed in different cells in Central Jail. As soon as two of them tested positive, we moved them to Covid-19 hospitals for treatment. We haven't sealed down the police station as the infected were found to be asymptomatic," he stated.

A record 39 Covid-19 cases were reported in a single day in Vijayapura. Among them, 28 cases were from containment zones, and 11 cases from rural areas, with Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI). The total number of cases is now 286, with 62 active, 217 cured and 7 deceased in the district.

Six people were discharged from a Covid hospital in Bagalkot on Sunday

We haven't sealed down the police station as the infected were found to be asymptomatic

SP Anupam Agarwal

ASI dies of Covid, 3rd policeman in a week

Bengaluru: A 59-year-old assistant sub-inspector of police (ASI) succumbed to Covid-19 at Victoria Hospital on Sunday morning. This is the third fatality in the police department in a week. The officer was attached to Wilson Garden traffic police station. He had been undergoing treatment after testing positive on June 18. A senior police officer said the ASI had fever for the past four days, and his family members had been quarantined. Meanwhile, 25 staffers, including five primary contacts of the deceased, have been quarantined.

Sunday cop count: 21 from B'luru stations test positive

As many as 15 policemen from Kalasipalya police station (L&O), five from Ashok Nagar (Traffic) station and one from Bandepalya station (L&O) tested positive on Sunday. BBMP officials have started sanitising the stations and surroundings areas. **ENS**

Stay home, stay safe: Rao tells staff aged over 55

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FOLLOWING a sharp increase in the Covid-19 cases among police staffers, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao has issued a set of instructions to keep his staff safe.

Personnel aged above 55 years have been told to stay home, but not to leave the city and to use the services of Home Guards. No member of the public should enter the police station, but arrangements should be made to interact with them and receive complaints on the station premises. Staff have been directed to maintain social distance, wear masks and gloves during such interactions.

"Hosyala, Cheetah and Cobra patrolling staff should not enter police stations unnecessarily and must wear masks and use sanitiser. Avoid arresting accused persons, but if inevitable, the arrest process should be completed outside, with permission from ACPs and DCPs. Police inspectors should arrange for wedding halls with hot water and toilet facility, to accommodate at least 25 staff," Rao stated.

Cops have been advised to drink hot water, bathe in stations, and use sanitiser, masks and PPE kits.

He also advised his team to use technology while making arrests and recovering property, and ensure that vehicles are sanitised every day. Officers should get health updates of staffers who test positive, and ensure that staff from North Karnataka do not leave Bengaluru.

Former secretary of DMK's Chennai North district unit Balaraman died of Covid-19 in the early hours of Sunday. Party president MK Stalin condoled the death in a statement on Sunday.

TN will soon touch 60K mark with 2,532 more cases recorded in a day

Two judges among fresh positive cases; 53 succumb to virus, taking toll to 757

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai/Vijayawada/Bhubaneswar/T'puram

TAMIL Nadu will soon touch the 60,000 mark with the state reporting 2,532 cases and 53 deaths. The state's tally now stands at 59,377 and toll at 757. Three of the deceased had no co-morbid conditions. As many as 16 deaths were reported in private hospitals, and 37 in government hospitals. The deceased were in the 34-86 age group. Giving details on the deceased who had no co-morbidities, a media bulletin said one of them died within a day of admission and another died within four hours of admission.

Two judges tested positive on Sunday. The judges were working from home and hearing cases through video conferencing facility.

Meanwhile, the alarming upward surge of the Covid-19 graph in Andhra Pradesh post-lockdown continued as 477 fresh cases were added, taking the total to 8,929 on Sunday. The toll, too, increased by another five to 106 while 151 patients had recovered and been discharged from hospitals across the state, the latest COVID-19 bulletin said.

Chennai wears a deserted look due to the complete lockdown on Sunday | PJAWAHAR

"What we are seeing now is the peaking of the pandemic after we have opened up. Also, our testing strategy has changed and we have scaled up the number of daily tests. In the last 24 hours, we did a record 24,451 tests and detected 477 positive cases," a senior official of the health department pointed out.

Odisha registered the highest single-day spike of COVID-19 cases with 304 more people testing positive for the disease, taking the total in the state to 5,160, a health department official said on Sunday. Two more people succumbed to the virus raising the death toll to 14.

Kerala recorded the highest single-day spike of Covid-19 cases on Sunday with 133 persons testing positive -- the third consecutive day in which the number of cases crossed the 100 mark. The day also saw 93 discharges.

CM stooping to CPM cyber goondas' level: Chennithala

ENS @T'Puram

A DAY after Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan came down heavily on KPCC chief Mullappally Ramachandran for his controversial 'Covid Rani' remarks on Health Minister K K Shailaja, Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala extended his support to the party president and shot back at the CM saying he is "stooping to the level of CPM's cyber goondas".

Chennithala said since Mullappally himself has already explained his stand regarding the remarks, which in the former's opinion were not anti-woman, he would not make any further comments on that. Pinarayi had said on Saturday that Mullappally was a prisoner of his own insanity.

Chennithala alleged no other leader has made as many verbal attacks as Pinarayi did. "Thamarassery Bishop was called a 'despicable creature', Kollam MP N K Premachandran was referred to as a 'scoundrel' and RMP's slain leader T P Chandrasekharan as a 'traitor'. Pinarayi did not even spare Mullappally's late father Mullappally Gopalan, who was a respected freedom fighter. Further, a CPM minister recently called a Congress leader 'Poothana', CPM MLA from Kayamkulam used bad words to criticise the media and the LDF convener made lewd remarks on MP Remya Haridas. Has Pinarayi or his leaders ever apologised for these controversial comments?" Chennithala asked.

Hyd firm gets nod to make Remdesivir

V NILESH @Hyderabad

HYDERABAD-based Hetero Drugs has been given approval by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to manufacture and market the antiviral drug Remdesivir. The drug was recently authorised as an investigational therapy under emergency medical use against Covid-19 by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).

The DCGI also gave a similar approval to another pharmaceutical company, Cipla.

According to a media statement issued by Hetero Drugs, the drug has been granted approval by DCGI for the treatment of suspected or laboratory-confirmed cases of Covid-19 in adults and children, hospitalised with severe symptoms of the disease and has to be administered intravenously in a hospital setting under the supervision of a healthcare practitioner.

Speaking to *TNIE*, the company officials said that the drug, which will be sold under brand name 'Covifor', will be delivered within a week.

The drug will be delivered only through government channels and will be supplied only to government hospitals as Covid-19 treatment is being done mostly at government hospitals and the drug is still listed by the ICMR as an investigational therapy.

The drug will be available in the form of 100mg vials and each vial is expected to cost between ₹5,000 and ₹6,000.

STATE PULSE

VIRUS TEST OF A DIFFERENT KIND LINED UP BEFORE ODISHA GOVERNMENT

SIBA MOHANTY
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Bigger tasks lie ahead for the Naveen Patnaik govt — restoration of livelihood, rising unemployment and re-booting the economy. The real challenge would be to provide gainful employment to the returnee migrant workers

THE long summer of the coronavirus battle has given way to the monsoon, but for the Naveen Patnaik government, it has been a season of going through fire and water. Literally. From mounting Covid cases to addressing the problems of a large migrant workforce; a distressed economy that requires immediate attention to conducting Lord Jagannath's annual Rath Yatra amidst a pandemic scare, the challenges have been manifold.

In his June 4 message, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik described the current month as most crucial for the state in its fight against the pandemic. Expectedly, the Covid count has shown an upward trend. In the last three weeks, the numbers have jumped by 150% — from 2,014 (June 1) to 5,160 (June 21). The government, which faced criticism for not ramping up daily tests despite having adequate labs, has changed strategy and gone in for house-to-house screening to tackle the problem.

During the 20 years of his rule, deft disaster management had been Naveen's hallmark. It reflected in his strategies of tackling the problem of bulging number of returnees from other states through the establishment of temporary medical camps in each of its 6,798 panchayats where they were quarantined and screened. When cyclone Amphan threatened to strike, his administration was ready despite the paucity of time. With the onset of rains, the government has shifted gear. In rural areas, Covid Care Homes are being set up where screened people would be housed and treated. At least 70,000 can be accommodated in these facilities.

Despite a whopping 5.6 lakh migrant workers returning home during the lockdown, Odisha continues to be in a comfortable position so far as the Covid fight is concerned. Naveen took a conscious decision of not going forward with the Centre's Unlock 1.0 by clamping weekend shutdowns in 11 districts and a prolonged night curfew. However, bigger tasks lie ahead — restoration of livelihood, rising unemployment and re-booting the economy.

The real challenge would be to provide gainful employment to the returnee migrant workers. Putting the primary focus on MGNREGS may not yield expected results. Though the state government has planned to create 20 crore mandays under the flagship rural employment scheme, monsoon may throw cold water on rural infrastructure projects to be undertaken under various schemes. Besides, much would depend on the willingness of this workforce to demand employment since a large chunk is skilled, having worked in various industrial clusters of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh as well as Kerala. The difference in remuneration received in their original place of employment and the manual works under MGNREGS would have to be factored in. The government has launched a skill mapping exercise and that needs to be fast-tracked. Experts believe the lockdown has presented the state an opportunity to understand the labour sector and its dynamics for future use.

Right now though, it is caught between a virus and an ancient religious festival that stands as an embodiment of the Odia spirit. After the Supreme Court stayed the Rath Yatra in Puri and elsewhere in view of the pandemic, the government ratified the order. But there is an upsurge of sentiment in favour of the annual festival. Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati and Gajapati Dibyasingh Deb have thrown their weight behind the fest. Petitions seeking modification of the order will be heard by the SC on Monday. For millions in Odisha and outside, the Rath Yatra remains the singularly most important religious event. Lord Jagannath is integral to the way of life in the state as almost everything is woven around the Holy Trinity and their abode in Puri. Worshipped, revered and loved as living Gods, the syncretic nature of the cult of Jagannath also is the ultimate representation and expression of the state. For now, all eyes are on the SC.

EXPRESS READ

Kishan Reddy visits Col Santosh's kin

Suryapet: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy visited martyr Colonel Santosh Babu's family in Suryapet on Sunday as per Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directions. Kishan Reddy said that the Centre would provide all necessary help to the martyred colonel's family. He requested citizens to come forward voluntarily and extend a helping hand to the martyred colonel's family. **ENS**

Elephant tramples woman to death

Coimbatore: A 52-year-old tribal woman was allegedly trampled to death by a wild elephant at Avarallah reserve forest in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in the Nilgiris district on Saturday evening. The deceased, P Madhevi of the Irula Tribe, was a resident of Undi Moyar Village near Masinagudi. The woman and three of her neighbours, were chased by the elephant when they all were inside the reserve forest, a source said. **ENS**

Puri temple panel to bring Agyanmala to chariots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bhubaneswar

IN a twist to the Ratha Yatra tale, the Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (JTMC) on Sunday announced that 'Agyanmala' will be brought to the three chariots on Monday even as the Supreme Court is set to hear a bunch of petitions seeking a modification of its June 18 order staying the festival scheduled on June 23.

Announcing the decision, representatives of the committee maintained that if the chariots are not allowed to be pulled to Singhadwara after the Agyanmala is taken to the three chariots, rituals may get disrupted.

Stating that Ratha Yatra has no alternative, the representatives asked the state government to either move the Supreme Court seeking a modification of its order or bring an ordinance to conduct the Ratha Yatra. They said the big question was whether the chariots will be brought in front of the Singhadwara or not. And after the chariots are stationed in front of the Singhadwara, there is no going back and Ratha Yatra will be conducted. They asked the state government to take a decision by considering these aspects.

The temple's representatives asked the Odisha government to move the Supreme Court| EXPRESS

A single-judge bench of Justice S Rabindra Bhatt will hear the petitions at Virtual Court Number 3, through video conferencing on Monday. As many as 17 petitions have so far been filed seeking permission for the conduct of the annual car festival of Lord Jagannath and his sibling deities at Puri.

Shankaracharya of Puri, Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, on Sunday alleged that there was a well-orchestrated plan to stall Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra this year amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. "On June 20, the Supreme Court could have accepted the review petitions seeking modification of its June 18 stay order," he said.

TUNING IN

On World Music Day, a group of professional musicians get together at Bangalore School of Music to belt out a few songs, in Bengaluru on Sunday | MEGHANA SASTRY

Senior Congress leader tests positive in Telangana

Hyderabad: Senior Congress leader and AICC secretary in Telangana, V Hanumantha Rao, tested positive for Covid-19 and was admitted to a corporate hospital in Hyderabad on Sunday. VHR is the latest addition to politicos who have fallen prey to Covid. TRS MLAs Muthireddy Yadagiri Reddy, Bajireddy Govardhan, Bigala Ganesh Gupta, former BJP MLA Chintala Ramchadra Reddy and TPCC treasurer Gudur Narayana Reddy had tested positive recently. VHR got himself tested after displaying symptoms of the disease. His results came back positive.The Congress leader was actively involved in relief activities, including distribution of ration and sanitisation kits among the poor and frontline workers. **ENS**

Plea in court to auction Appugol's properties

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Belagavi

ALTOGETHER 110 alleged benami properties owned by Kannada film producer Anand Appugol and his associates will be auctioned off if a court application filed by the local administration in Belagavi is okayed.

Appugol, who was chairman of Sangolli Rayanna Cooperative Society in Belagavi, allegedly cheated thousands of depositors to the tune of Rs 250 crore. Several cases have been filed against him for cheating customers and he was booked by the police for shutting down the cooperative abruptly without returning the customers' deposits.

The Belagavi assistant commissioner filed an application in a local court seeking permission to auction off all his properties. According to sources, the government plans to clear the society's dues through the auction. He has bought several posh bungalows in different parts of the country.

Appugol has a big farm near Munoli, Belagavi district, which is allegedly owned by one of his family members. The producer of the Kannada film, Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna, Appugol was leading a lavish lifestyle before the police booked him.

According to a senior advocate from Belagavi, who has aided Appugol, 90 per cent of Appugol's properties are owned by people other than his family members. "The government may have halted the sale of all these properties but it is difficult to take possession of these properties if they are owned by others. It is difficult to prove that Appugol invested in these properties. The owners of these properties will certainly get a stay from the court to halt the acquisition of their properties," he said.

Already, several relatives and friends of Appugol have been booked and jailed in connection with cases filed by the society's customers. A large number of customers have been protesting in front of his residence in Belagavi.

> The government may have halted the sale of all these properties but it is difficult to take possession of these properties if they are owned by others. It is difficult to prove Appugol invested in them
> A senior advocate

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Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Modular Steel Surface Water Storage Tank

Two bid system online tender is invited through Karnataka e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**, by IFAB from the OEM or authorized Agents for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Modular Steel Surface Water Storage Tank. The tender details and documents can be downloaded from **09.06.2020** and bids can be uploaded up to last date : **09.07.2020** and through e-procurement portal only.

DIPR/DDU/2020-21 **Sd/- Managing Director**

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY

The following e-tenders are published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to **www.ireps.gov.in** and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. Hindi translation of display advertisement available in the Website **www.icf.indianrailways.gov.in**
Closing and Opening time for all tenders are **10.30 hrs** and **11.00 hrs** respectively.

Short description of work

(A) Supply of Potable bore water from private sources to the GLR's of ICF (B) Supply of Potable bore water from private sources and door to door supply of water in the ICF colonies (C) Transportation of water within ICF GLRs (D) Transportation of water from KPS/CMWSSB to ICF GLRs.

Sl. No.	Open Tender No.	Approx. Value	Date of Tender	
			Closing	Opening
1	EW/1078	₹ 315.95 lakhs	13.07.2020	13.07.2020

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Sl. No.	Description of work an NIT No. B&R / ERE / 10416 / KoPT / STATUE / NIT / 01 Dtd. 19.06.2020	Tender Document available on B&R's Website	Due date of submission of Bid
1.	Engagement of associate through pre-bid and post-bid tie-up through MOU for submission of price offer for Site Exploration, Soil Testing, Design and Construction of Foundation & Turn Table Mechanism of Commemorative Statue at Millennium Park 3, Kolkata.	22.06.2020	29.06.2020

Interested resourceful Contractors may download the tender documents from Co's Website http://www.bridgeroof.co.in.
Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, shall be hosted in Co's Website http://www.bridgeroof.co.in only.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of The Executive Engineer, (WWM) C Valley Division, OMBR GLR, 3rd Main Road OMBR Layout, Banasawadi, Bangalore-43.

IFT No. BWSSB/EE(WWM)CV/PB/205/2020-21 Dated : 18-06-2020

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(ONLY THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)

BWSSB invites tenders from eligible registered tenderers for the work of **pumping sewage arrangements by providing and laying 150/200mm dia HDPE pipeline from the existing 1000mm dia Trunk sewer line at Munekolalu to proposed 800mm dia DI pipeline connecting to Bellandur Amanikere STP**

Amount put to tender: Rs.9.80 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.25,000/-.

Last date and time for Receipt of Tenders will be on : **29.06.2020 upto 4.00 PM**. and the date of opening of Tender will be on : **30.06.2020 at 4.10 PM**. Further details regarding the tender can be obtained by logging onto **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (WWM) C-Valley

EDITORIAL

"Nothing endures but change, and accepting this has the potential to transform the dread of dying into joyful living" — Mingyur Rinpoche

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

BJP OFFERS JOBS BALM TO MIGRANTS AHEAD OF BIHAR POLLS

Keenly aware that the horrible experiences of migrants who returned home in recent weeks could be a swing factor in the Bihar Assembly polls slated for November, the Centre has rolled out a mega jobs scheme for them. In Bihar, it will be implemented in 32 of its 38 districts. In all, the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan will cover 116 districts in six states, offering 25 types of projects to the returnees based on their skillset. By the time the scheme is wrapped up in 125 days, the festival of electoral democracy would be in full play in Bihar.

The ruling NDA would be banking on the job scheme to assuage the feelings of the migrants, many of whom were rendered homeless and jobless by successive lockdowns for months in various states because of the coronavirus pandemic. They returned home weary and famished, thousands of them on foot for hundreds of kilometers for want of public transport. Such mass migration in distress months before an election is bad news for any incumbent coalition. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity continues to be intact. And the NDA hopes the job scheme would be the steroid that catalyses healing and lifts the mood of the migrant workforce, whose population is sizable. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar claims special trains brought in over 20 lakh migrants to the state. It was in addition to those who used other modes of transport.

Apart from Bihar, the scheme is available in MP, UP, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha. Since it would disincentivise migrants from returning to their pre-lockdown worksites in the short run, it can be seen as inorganic. If the ₹50,000 crore scheme is executed in the spirit of atonement for the sufferings of migrants, it could serve as a moral compass. But such is the nature of politics that temptation to brag about it could be irresistible.

Fortunately for the NDA, the opposition in Bihar is in complete disarray. Only a powerful coalition can give it any real fight, but haughty RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's ability to make sacrifices to forge one appears doubtful. If the NDA manages to change the optics, it would want to give a left-handed compliment to the squabbling opposition.

CHINESE APPS AND THE THREAT TO PRIVACY

The success of the Swadeshi movement during the Independence struggle was not the outcome of Indians boycotting Western goods. It was because India had a strong symbol of resistance—the charkha. Today, in this perception battle against China, we lack such a symbol. Even as one section of Indians is making frantic calls to boycott Chinese apps and a second group is dissing it as an impractical move, Beijing has quietly set the wheels rolling to dethrone Zoom as the most-preferred video conferencing app. At a time when people across the world are working from home, China has blocked Zoom, leaving the market wide open for local players. Now, video conferences in China happen mostly over VooV, backed by a company called Tencent.

It is a mistake to think Chinese apps are targeting India alone. Like any other aggressive business, their target is the global market. An analysis by RiskIQ earlier this year says there are close to nine million mobile apps on the planet, and a whopping 40% of app spending came from China. Neither Google Play nor the Apple Store is among the top three app stores in the world. The top three are hardly known outside China—ApkGK, APKpure Co and AndroidAppsApk. It's not like the Chinese are using these out of free will. Through a series of blockades on international players, their government has left them no option but to use local apps. This March, thanks to a Dutch hacker, it came to light that conversations of Chinese people using Tencent applications from internet cafes were being relayed live to local police stations. Days later, Tencent's founder Pony Ma entered China's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress.

Tencent has invested in 800 firms globally, of which just 15 are in India, including Swiggy and Flipkart. While the informed public is sensitive about data privacy when it comes to local government and global internet corporations, it has largely remained unconcerned about China. If India is to overcome this threat to privacy, it needs a 'digital charkha' that, unlike the Chinese and global corporations, is transparent about its data collection and usage policies.

The PM recently spoke about achieving self-reliance in sectors like defence, chip manufacturing and aviation. In the absence of any plan, this is self-delusion

CENTRE HAS NO ROAD MAP FOR SELF-RELIANCE

KAPIL SIBAL
Senior lawyer, Congress leader and member of Rajya Sabha

AMIT BANDRE

On 11 June 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted the Kolkata-based Indian Chamber of Commerce to convert the pandemic-related economic crisis into an opportunity. For the PM to address the Kolkata-based industry lobby instead of other apex chambers of commerce to deliver this message to industries around the country was somewhat surprising. He perhaps chose Kolkata because of the impending state Assembly elections in early 2021. This was yet another speech without a road map in place. He talked about taking the Indian economy from "command-and-control" mode to "plug-and-play". He exhorted the industry to take bold decisions and make bold investments going forward. He spoke of a self-reliant India in sectors like medical devices, defence, coal and minerals, edible oil, fertilisers, electronics, solar panels, batteries, chip manufacturing and aviation.

The PM, before making such an exhortation, should have been and hopefully is aware of a possible economic pandemic. Any economy that has self-reliance as its goal must commit itself to make policy shifts and invest heavily in research and development (R&D). India's gross national expenditure on R&D is 0.7% of GDP, lowest even among BRICS countries. Amongst developed economies, Israel spends 4.4%, Germany 3%, the US 2.8% and Canada 1.6% of their GDP on R&D. The share of expenditure in higher education is merely 3.8% of the gross R&D expenditure, whereas it is 7% in China, 13% in the US, 17% in Germany, 21% in France, 31% in Australia and 41% in Canada. The foundation of a nation's wealth lies in unleashing the innovative spirit of young minds who seek to explore and discover new ways to overcome the challenges that lie ahead. It is funding and freedom to experiment and discover through multi-disciplinary collaborations that will help lay the foundations of a self-reliant India. In the last six years, the Modi administration has shown no interest in moving in that direction.

There is no point asking industry to be innovative. Factories produce goods. They use existing technology. They do not innovate. Talking of medical devices, the PM knows that 70% to 90% of our domestic requirement for medical devices is met through imports. We lack a robust indigenous ecosystem for large-scale manufacture of medical devices. In respect of solar panels, the Indian solar power sector itself imports solar modules. In 2018 alone, these imports cost us $2.59 billion. We import $60 billion worth of electronic equipment, assemblies, components, raw material, etc. Around 88% of the components used by the mobile handset industry are imported from countries like China. We are not self-reliant in fertilisers, a key input towards achieving self-sufficiency in food grains. At present, India imports two-thirds of its requirement for fertilisers. Similarly, we are the world's leading vegetable oil importer of which the share of palm oil imports is more than 60%. Despite having the fourth largest coal reserves in the world, our coal imports have been rising to meet growing demand. We imported 247.1 million tonnes (MT) of coal in 2019-20, about 5% higher than the 235.35 MT imported during 2018-19. Though the government has opened up commercial mining to the private sector, commercial coal mining projects have long gestation periods, and thus unlikely to support the power sector in the near future.

If we look at our telecom sector, there is hardly any device that is manufactured in India. The 4G equipment used by Reliance Jio is supplied by Samsung while the same equipment used by Airtel and Vodafone is supplied by Huawei. Given these facts, it is difficult to digest that the PM genuinely believes that industry will help India become self-reliant. Surprisingly, the PM talked about chip manufacturing. For years, we have tried to set up a semiconductor wafer fabrication (FAB) unit in India. We lost out to Vietnam since we were unwilling to extend concessions and tax rebates that the investors demanded. Upfront investments are huge and the gestation period for manufacturing semiconductors is long. In the last six years, I am not aware of any attempts made by this government to attract foreign investment in a FAB unit. The aviation sector the PM talked about is in the doldrums. With Air India up for sale, there is little room for plug-and-play. If self-reliance is an imperative, there was no need to buy Rafale aircraft off the shelf rejecting manufacture by state-owned HAL. The 'Make in India' slogan remains a chimera given that globally we are the second largest importer of defence equipment.

I hope "Aatm Nirbhar Bharat" does not mean that the government has given up and left us to be self-reliant in our tryst with survival. The time has come for the prime minister to talk of the challenges facing the country today instead of mouthing slogans

In the near term to achieve self-reliance in these sectors, given the lay of the land, is an act of self-delusion. The PM has no well-thought-out road map for it. Self-reliance as a policy prescription in a highly interconnected world is a throwback to the import substitution policy that was given up long ago. Under that policy, Indian consumers were short-changed by the monopolistic regime of over-priced consumer goods of poor quality. We are likely to run into an economic recession. In times like these, what we need is to take care of those at the bottom of the pyramid. With unemployment reaching unprecedented levels, industrial production falling to a new low, along with plummeting demand, the dream of a self-reliant India will fall apart. It will meet the same fate as other slogans, meant only to seduce the public in the false belief that PM Modi cares. Politics is at the forefront of all such slogans, both in terms of their articulation and the place of articulation. With S&P global (BBB-), Moody's (BAA3) and Fitch (BBB-) downgrading India's rating at the lowest investment grade, World Bank projecting Asia's third largest economy to shrink by 3.2% during the year and OECD projecting that the Indian economy may contract by 3.7%—or in the case of a second wave of Covid infections, decline by 7.3% in 2020-21—it is time to think of self-reliance in terms of protecting ourselves from the consequences of the pandemic. I hope "Aatm Nirbhar Bharat"—the latest of many superfluous campaigns—does not mean that the government has given up and left us to be self-reliant in our tryst with survival. The time has come for the PM to talk of the challenges facing the country today instead of mouthing slogans and selling dreams.

THE SILENT EVIL OF ELDER ABUSE IN INDIA

DR DEBANJAN BANERJEE
Geriatric psychiatrist, NIMHANS, Bengaluru

"They separated me from my books, I kept silent/ Then they kept me away from my wife, I still kept silent/ They put me away from my home, I had to keep silent/ My daily medicines provided me the only company/ My 'age' was a 'burden' and I lived in silence."

This excerpt was from the diary of a retired 78-year-old school teacher, who spent the last years of his life in an old-age home, far from his family and his self-built world. These incidents of suffering are, however, not uncommon in old age and as a practicing geriatric psychiatrist, I encounter such stories frequently. Be it at home, in the streets, or old-age care facilities and hospitals, the elderly face various forms of emotional, physical, psychological and social abuse. It might range from neglect to physical trauma, food refusal to financial deprival, a casual insult to separation from the spouse. But no matter what the form is, the impact is manifold and creates sustained mental trauma to the person, already shackled down by the grip of age. Being old is an experience of wisdom, but it also brings in vulnerability. Unfortunately, our surroundings exploit that part, rather than protecting them.

India is graying fast; a report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation mentions that in 2016, the elderly (above 60 years of age) form 8.5% of our population. With the WHO estimating that the elderly population is increasing by 3.5% per year, by 2050, around 20% of our country will be seniors. What these numbers do not predict is the consistent struggle the elderly have to face daily in the community. Historically, Indians are perceived as familial beings with young-old coexistence. In reality, it is a myth, as the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) in its 2016 report mentions India as the leading Asian country in terms of elder exploitation and abuse.

The WHO defines elder abuse as "a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older/senior person". Needless to say, expectation of trust forms an important part of the definition, as most perpetrators of the abuse are families or care-givers in old-age facilities. Besides financial exploitation of the elderly, casual humiliation, ridicule or criticism on grounds of age are such a common practice that it has almost become our lifestyle. It reminds me of how insulted one of my friend's grandfather had felt while travelling by bus when he was ridiculed with a sexual comment for sitting down next to a young lady as he felt sick. These are definitely not stray incidents; they occur daily, at perhaps every corner of life. It is just that we choose to stay silent about it and our daily neglect keeps reinforcing this abuse. Sadly, most elders in our country are unaware of senior citizens' rights, legislative options and the right forums to approach at times of serious abuse. That adds to the burden, perpetuating this wrong behaviour towards them.

Historically, Indians are perceived as familial beings where the young and old coexist. In reality, it is a myth, as the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse in its 2016 report says India is the leading Asian country in terms of elder abuse

Abuse results in the elderly leaving their homes, overdosing on pills, refusing food and self-neglect. Mostly they lose self-esteem and mental strength, eventually giving rise to disorders like depression, anxiety and insomnia. The National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) 2015-16 mentions abuse as an important risk factor for suicide, and the overall risk of death by suicide in the elderly is double that of the younger population.

Abuse at times is subtle and chronic, and difficult to recognise. However, certain warning signs of elder abuse are multiple injuries or fractures, poor appearance, frequent infections, isolation, multiple bruises at inaccessible parts of the body, unexplained weight loss, refusal to feed or speak, signs of dehydration (dry skin, lips and sunken eyes) and apparent lack of cleanliness. These signs often do not need a doctor but can be picked up by a sensitive family member or a caregiver leading to early detection and consequent prevention of abuse.

During the present Covid-19 times, entrapment for prolonged periods has increased the rates of both domestic and institutional abuse of the elderly. This is a worrying social evil. The INPEA designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, mainly due to the increasing number of public-awareness events held by the WHO on this day for elder abuse prevention. However, like any other day, it will be lost if we do not give it appropriate relevance. Elder abuse is a social evil and reflects badly on our mental health as well. Many countries like the UK, US, Australia and Canada have strict laws for restricting elder abuse and it is high time our policymakers come up with necessary legislation. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, created an excellent impact on care for the elderly but fell short of combating elder abuse. Laws are confined mostly to paper and the inherent challenges in their implementation need to be handled. "No one asks, no one bothers, so no one tells…," was mentioned by one of the old-age home staff, which cannot be overemphasised. Awareness is the need of the hour and all forms of medical, nursing, and senior care facilities need to be sensitive to this issue. Whatever the context is, it is preventable if detected and dealt with early. Ultimately, graying awaits all of us and the question we need to ask is: "Do we want ourselves to be treated the same way?"

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Beautiful old people are works of art!" There is still time for us to help the 'art' that is our beautiful elders.

(dr.djan88@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Utterly uncalled for

The mischievous characterisation of Kerala Health Minister K K Shailaja by state Congress head Mullappally Ramachandran as 'Covid Queen' and 'Nipah Princess' is utterly uncalled for. Instead of recognising the minister's pivotal role in containing and managing the pandemic, the KPCC president has made scurrilous comments on her performance.
Kelath Gopakumar Menon, Thrissur

Staged spectacle

The spat between LDF and UDF is a staged spectacle to hide the reality. Due to the compactness of the state, Covid management was easier in Kerala with basic infrastructure than in bigger states.
B Kailash Shankar, Thiruvananthapuram

CM shouldn't forget past

The Congress leader could have avoided these words and better expressed his discontentment over what he might have felt are attempts by the minister to boost her personal image. But that is no reason to portray him as anti-women. As for the Kerala CM, he should remember that people have not forgotten his slurs against political opponents.
P R V Raja, Pandalam

Yoga and a better tomorrow

Another June 21 has just passed us by. India can feel proud that it has been recognised as 'International Yoga Day' by the UN since 2015. An Yoga-enabled healthy life is a passport to a better tomorrow.
R Sampath, Chennai

New leadership for Cong

This is with reference to *Rahul@50: Looking for political rebirth* (June 21). The Congress can never resurrect under the confused leadership of Rahul Gandhi. In such a situation, the party is left with two options—either gather courage to change its leadership or wait for the BJP-led alliance to falter seriously. Both look remote now.
Manoj Kumar Sinha, Visakhapatnam

Expectations not met yet

People expected much from Rahul but were disappointed as he was not ready to learn from past mistakes. He is young and energetic, and will hopefully resurrect the grand old party that is now on the verge of collapse.
Thomas Matthew, Muvattupuzha

Shed anti-Modi mindset

The author Prabhu Chawla has rightly analysed Rahul Gandhi's strengths and weaknesses. Unless Rahul comes out of his anti-Modi mindset and treats every issue on its merit and not on bitterness, it will be difficult for him to survive.
Vijay Kumar C, Bengaluru

Stand united at least now

The need of the hour is for all of us to stand united while facing external threats. But Rahul has cast aspersions on both the government and the military, losing whatever is left of his credibility. During the recent all-party meeting, the Congress was isolated along with the Communists, with all other parties rallying behind the Union government.
Hemanth D Pai, Bengaluru

Only benefits our enemy

When the PM and defence officials have clarified that not an inch of land has now been ceded in Ladakh's Galwan, the matter should rest there. But as is his habit, Rahul is unnecessarily creating a hue and cry over the issue. As a senior leader of Congress, he must behave with maturity and refrain from issuing statements that may benefit the enemy.
Ram Saran Singh, Bengaluru

Support the government

In times of external aggression, opposition parties should give unqualified support to the government. They should not fritter away their and the government's energies, and boost our enemies.
Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
Rahul's attack on PM is nothing but an attempt to whitewash sins of Nehru, who surrendered Indian territory to China

Gordon G. Chang @GordonGChang
No, #China, losing friends around the world fast, needs #India more than India needs China

Pawan Khera @Pawankhera
What are you doing about Nepal bombarding our villages in #Uttarakhand with anti-India propaganda @PMOIndia?

'OUR CHINA POLICY MUST BE REDEFINED'

Former foreign secretary Nirupama Rao asserts engagement cannot be replaced overnight by disengagement, says all options need to be factored in by India

Nirupama Menon Rao is easily one of India's best known diplomats, having served both as former foreign secretary and former Indian Ambassador to China. The threat of collapse of the world order will depend on the post-Covid situation, she tells **Bansy Kalappa**. The global political and economic order is definitely being tested by the threat of heightened competition and fraying of engagement between China and the US, the rise of hyper-nationalism, besides other factors, and we must read the tea leaves well and discern these trends, says the seasoned diplomat. Excerpts:

Q There had been a build-up over a few weeks of different incidents before what happened on June 15 at the Galwan Valley. You called it a 'watershed moment'. Can you please explain?

The situation in certain pockets along the Line of Actual Control with China in the Ladakh sector, had been showing increasing signs of volatility from early May.

This included the Pangong Tso area, Hot Springs and the Galwan Valley. In the latter region – Galwan — there had been no known incident of confrontation since the conflict of 1962, when in October that year a fierce battle between the two sides had been fought with considerable loss of life at this very location. In the run-up to that conflict also, it had seen increased tension and encirclement by Chinese troops of our personnel (but no loss of life), especially in July 1962. What sets the June 15, 2020, face-off apart is that firstly, it ended a 45-year period when our troops had not been involved in a violent confrontation with China, that additionally involved a heavy loss of life which is extremely unfortunate. Secondly, the latest developments have serious repercussions on our bilateral relationship with China since in a graphic manner, we are seeing a very hostile and violently assertive face of China, which is quite at variance with their behaviour in the past three decades of constructive engagement.

Q Can it ever be business as usual with China from now on?

The incident is a severe setback to bilateral relations, of that there is no doubt. But engagement cannot be replaced overnight by disengagement. Our China policy has obviously to be redefined, and restructured. Faced with Chinese hostility and inflexibility on territorial issues concerning the boundary dispute, and China's adversarial policies affecting India, especially in Pakistan, we have to weigh the fallout of disengagement with due deliberation, assessing the costs to us internally as well as externally. At the diplomatic level and between the two militaries, contact and communication will have to be maintained in order to defuse the situation that has developed along the LAC. Looking at other areas of bilateral engagement, China is our biggest trading partner in goods. The economic adjustment we make should be conceived and implemented in a manner that also takes into account steps we must take to diversify supply chains for our key manufacturing industries, so that we reduce dependence on China. More than a hundred Chinese companies are involved in infrastructure development in India. Also, there is the flow of Chinese investments in our startups in the technology sector. Then there are Indian companies, like Infosys, TCS and Tata, who have been operating in China for some years now. We have to be deft with the policy alternatives we put in place so that our economic interests are not targeted. The options will have to be weighed carefully. It is possible that tariffs on a number of Chinese goods will be raised.

> The options will have to be weighed carefully. It is possible that tariffs on a number of Chinese goods will be raised

The gloves are definitely off in this altered environment, post-Galwan. We have to guard against hotheadedness in the public domain, however, as a pressure point on the government. We source around 14 per cent of our imports from China, while India accounts for less that 2 per cent of Chinese exports. In other areas, away from trade and investment, I presume there will be a slowing-down of bilateral contacts and that a degree of chill will set in in the short and possibly medium-term.

Q The head of government of our nation had something very different to say as against what the MEA was saying. How do you respond?

The PM's remarks at the all-party meeting on June 19 were subsequently clarified by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Obviously, our patrol that went into the Galwan River Valley on Monday evening was there because there was Chinese transgression, and presence on what we regarded as our side of the Line Of Actual Control. Regrettably, speculation and various interpretations about what the PM said were rife for many hours after the remarks were made, and before the PMO statement.

This speculation could have been obviated if immediate steps had been taken to clarify what was said, through government channels, so as to set the matter at rest.

The slowness to respond was unfortunate and the Chinese propaganda machinery – their media which is tightly controlled – utilised the opportunity to dispute what we had all along been saying through the Ministry of External Affairs and Army Headquarters, that the Chinese had intruded into our territory leading to the tragic events of June 15. I can hardly over-emphasize the need for our official communication machinery to be more fleet-footed and responsive so that the media is not left to draw its own conclusions, and our adversaries do not exploit the situation.

Q Will the statement of the head of government legitimise the claims of China over our territory, as some fear?

No, I do not believe that is the case at all. The matter was clarified. There should be no confusion. I am sure our interests will be secure and well-defended by the government.

Q In addition to what is happening on the Galwan border, suddenly there is a border issue with Nepal. Is there something behind all this that the common man is not able to see?

Our boundary with Nepal is an open one, and has been so, traditionally. The issue of the boundary in the Kalapani area on the Uttarakhand-Nepal border is not a new one. There is a history to the issue that goes back to the pre-Independence era and the boundaries we inherited. Nepal and India have differing interpretations of the boundary in this area. Over the last few decades, there have been interactions at the diplomatic level between Nepal and India on the issue. Most of the sectors of the India-Nepal border have been mutually agreed upon between the two countries in these diplomatic discussions. The Kalapani issue is one that needs resolution and it was decided last year that the matter would now be discussed at the Foreign Secretary-level by the two countries, after the technical-level groups failed to resolve the matter. The Nepal government has, through some steps taken recently, elevated the dispute to an unprecedented level as we have seen from media reports and nationalistic anti-Indian statements by the Nepalese leadership. India and Nepal must now address the issue at the political leadership level, given these latest developments, so that a mutually satisfactory solution is found. Political brinkmanship is not advised. China is becoming a major player and is expanding its influence within Nepal. This is a new development that also affects the scenario. We must restore the positive equilibrium in India-Nepal relations and in my view, India as the larger country, as a brotherly neighbour, must take a mature, thoughtful, long-term view that safeguards the core values that have defined our relationship with Nepal from time immemorial. Both sides should end rhetoric, and focus on the need to remove misunderstandings.

> Political brinkmanship is not advised. China is becoming a major player and is expanding its influence within Nepal

Q Is this a 'collapse' of the world order?

It will all depend on the post-Covid situation. The global political and economic order is definitely being tested by the threat of heightened competition and the fraying of engagement between China and the US, the rise of hyper-nationalism and gated globalisation, tariff and immigration barriers, the sharpening of territorial disputes, the slowing and stagnation and even negative reversal of economic growth, the loss of livelihoods, and the weakening of multilateral institutions. We must read the tea leaves well and discern these trends in a manner that as responsible global players, we are able to prevent this descent into the weakening of global stability and preserve peace and economic well-being, especially of the poor and disadvantaged, strengthen scientific cooperation in public health and disease prevention, and uphold the principles of international law and codes of conduct.

Q Can you please tell us a little about your new book?

It is a book about the diplomatic history of India-China relations in the period between 1949 and 1962, and I am in the process of completing it.

Religious heads join chorus against China

Religious gurus from Haridwar have joined the campaign to boycott Chinese goods. Right from yoga guru Ramdev to Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad office-bearers and Muslim clerics, all urged people to ensure that they defeat China on the economic front as the Indian Army takes on the PLA on the border. "As patriots, we should boycott Chinese goods and deny them profit they make from our hard earned money. We should become more and more self-reliant," said yoga guru Ramdev.

Boycott: Haryana cancels tender

The Haryana government cancelled two tenders for installation of pollution control system at two thermal plants in Hisar and Yamunanagar in which the Chinese companies were the lowest bidders. The Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited had invited global bids to install a flue gas desulphurization system at power stations. Sources said fresh tenders with changed terms and conditions will be invited on the pattern adopted by NTPC which allows only firms registered in India to bid for domestic projects.

PM is Surender Modi, says Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

CONGRESS leader **Rahul Gandhi** on Sunday took a jibe at the Prime Minister over the Ladakh standoff, dubbing him as "Surender Modi" while pointing at satellite images to claim that China captured Indian territory near Pangong Lake.

"Narendra Modi is actually Surender Modi," Rahul tweeted, sharing an opinion piece in Japan Times titled 'India's appeasement policy toward China unravels'.

The former Congress chief has been taking on Modi over the killing of 20 soldiers in Galwan valley. "PM has surrendered Indian territory to Chinese aggression. If the land was Chinese, why were our soldiers killed? Where were they killed?" he said.

Rahul further said that satellite images contradicts the PM's statement at the all-party meeting that no one has entered our territories, no one is at present within our territory and no one has occupied our posts. "The Prime Minister said neither has anyone entered the country nor has anyone captured our territory. But satellite images clearly show that China has captured Indian territory near Pangong Lake."

The Congress questioned the government's denial of Chinese transgression. "Despite the statement of security experts, army generals and satellite imagery depicting Chinese intrusion into Pangong Tso up to nearly 8 km, construction of over 60 permanent structures, including bunkers and boat pads & occupation up to Finger 4," the party asked.

> **The Prime Minister said - no one entered the country, nor did anyone take over our land. But satellite photos clearly show that China has captured Indian territory near Pangong Lake**
>
> — Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

ANTI-TERROR ACTION

Security personnel leave after the end of an encounter in Srinagar downtown on Sunday | ZAHOOR PUNJABI

Jaish ops commander among four militants gunned down in Kashmir

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

FOUR militants, including a Pakistani militant of Jaish-e-Mohammad, were killed in two separate gunfights at Zadibal area of downtown Srinagar and in Kulgam district.

IG, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said police and paramilitary personnel laid siege around Zadibalon Saturday evening after receiving inputs about presence of three militants there. After sealing all the entry and exit routes, security personnel zeroed in on a three-storey house.

"We called the local elderly persons, who appealed militants to lay down weapons and surrender. We also brought families of two of the three trapped militants to the site and they appealed them to surrender," the IG said

Militants, however, lobbed grenades and fired on security forces following which a nearly four hour encounter started at the site. All the three holed-up militants were killed and the house was partially damaged.

The trio was earlier associated with Hizbul Mujahideen but later shifted their allegiance to Islamic State Jammu and Kashmir, the IG said, adding that one of the militants as was involved in killing of two BSF men on the outskirts of Srinagar on May 20.

In south Kashmir's Kulgam district, security forces shot dead the Pakistani militant. The slain Jaish-e-Mohammad militant was identified as Tayab Waleed alias Imran Bhai alias Gazi Baba.

"Waleed was an operational commander of Jaish and an expert in making IEDs besides being a sharp shooter. An AK rifle, one M-4 Carbine, and a pistol was recovered from the encounter site," the IG said.

Bodies of all four militants would be buried in north Kashmir.

After outbreak of Covid, police is not handing over bodies of local militants to their families and burying them in north and central Kashmir.

Post Amphan, six BDOs face heat after graft plaints

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

ELECTION strategist Prashant Kishor's team I-PAC and the West Bengal CM's office received more than 2,000 complaints related to corruption in distributing relief materials in Cyclone Amphan-hit areas and siphoning off government's fund.

Subsequently, six Block Development Officers (BDOs) were show-caused after allegations of favouritism and list of false "cyclone victims" arrived the state secretariat.

Sources in the state government said CM Mamata Banerjee herself is monitoring the complaints considering it might turn into be a political issue ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections. "Other than the complaints forwarded by I-PAC, the CM said she came to know similar complaints from her own sources. She directed Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha to verify each of the complaints and let her know the outcome," said a senior official.

The six BDOs, who were issued show-cause notice, are from Howrah, Hooghly, North and South 24-Parganas districts.

Military brass briefs Defence Minister about ground situation at Ladakh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The defence minister will leave for Russia on Monday to participate in the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Singh's meeting with the CDS and the services chiefs assumes significance as the meetings between Indian and Chinese military officers in the Eastern Ladakh halted after three days. Thursday was the last meeting when the 10 Indian soldiers were released by the Chinese side.

The stand-off between the two armies continues at two points in Galwan Valley, Patrolling Point 14 and Patrolling Point 15, at Gogra Post (Patrolling Point 17A) in the Hot Spring Sector and Finger 4 on the Northern Flank of the Pangong Tso Lake.

Soldiers in equal numbers from both countries are positioned on both sides of Patrolling Point 14, sources said. The stand-off remains at other points also, confirmed the sources.

As for Trump, the US president had earlier offered to mediate between India and China but his offer was rejected by both countries saying they were engaged in peaceful military and diplomatic discussions to resolve the issue.

The Trump administration has stood by India and blamed China for escalation of tensions. "We extend our deepest condolences to the people of India for the lives lost as a result of the recent confrontation with China," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had tweeted and called China a 'rouge actor' on Friday.

Change in tactics

According to sources, the ground commanders of the Army have even been allowed to use firearms in rare cases, in a departure from the decades-old understanding between the two militaries to not resort to fire power in face-offs. The ground commanders have been given full freedom to take decisions depending on the situation," a senior military officer said.

U'khand looks to counter Nepal's FM propaganda

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

AFTER border villages of Uttarakhand are being bombarded with 'anti-India' songs by radio stations in Nepal, the state government might set up local FM channels to counter the propaganda onslaught.

"We are looking into the matter and views are to set up community radios," Uttarakhand minister Madan Kaushik said.

New Delhi and Kathmandu are locked in a border dispute regarding Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh, and Kalapani, whose locations fall in a trijunction between India, Nepal, and China.

N S Napalchyal, former chief secretary of Uttarakhand, who hails from Dharchula area of Pithoragarh, said the Chinese-style propaganda needs to be countered. "Our governments should start community radios in the area to counter these Nepalese FM channels."

Meanwhile, local residents have already launched a drive to boycott Nepalese radio channels. "We have decided to boycott these FM radio channels due to anti-India songs. They are spitting venom against India due to the Chinese influence. We have been like good neighbours for centuries and now this... This kind of behaviour is unacceptable," Shalu Datal, a resident of Dharchula, border town on the banks of Kali river, said,

Most of the songs are being run on Nepalese FM radio channels such as Naya Nepal, Kalapani Radio, Darchula Radio, Lok Darpan, Radio Sarthi and Mallikarjun Radio whose broadcasts are accessible across the border villages and towns like Dharchula and Jhoolaghat in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

Washing off hands

Manju Tinkari, a RJ with a Nepalese radio station, claimed FM stations play according to demands of the people

PRAISES FOR BMC

The Centre praised the Mumbai civic body for 'actively' chasing the coronavirus in Dharavi, saying proactive measures reduced the growth rate of the infection in Asia's largest slum to 1.02 per cent in June from 12 per cent in April.

27k MARK

CROSSED IN GUJARAT COVID CASES COUNT

Ahmedabad	37	27	Mumbai	31	27
Bhopal	35	26	Panaji	30	28
Jaipur	42	31	Patna	35	27
Amritsar	43	27	Lucknow	36	28
Chennai	39	28	Port Blair	31	28
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	29	22
Srinagar	32	11	Chandigarh	42	29

'LOCKDOWN NOT USED TO RAMP UP INFRA'

With the daily nationwide tally of coronavirus cases scaling new peaks every day, **Sumi Sukanya Dutta** speaks to health experts, who agree that the Central government needs to change its approach to deal with the pandemic and adopt customised strategies based on the local situation

DR K SRINATH REDDY

President, Public Health Foundation of India, and member, National Covid 19 Task Force

Where do you see India in the fight against Covid-19 as of now and what could be the way forward?

We are seeing rising numbers of cases in big cities and across several states. This represents both greater spread and better detection through increased testing... However, the fact remains that a very large population has not been touched by the virus as yet. There is need for continued vigilance and more effective action to keep the unexposed population safe for as long as possible.

Recognising that different parts of India are at different levels of exposure and health effects, we need to adopt differentiated strategies which are configured to match the local situation. This calls for decentralised planning at state level and customised implementation strategy at urban ward and village level.

Lately, there has been a lot of discussion around the term 'community transmission', with many epidemiologists arguing that accepting it is a critical point in the pandemic as the focus then shifts from containment to mitigation. What do you think?

Even if there is community transmission in some parts, that will not be a uniform feature with simultaneous occurrence across the country... So, both containment and mitigation have to be simultaneously implemented and not treated as distinctly sequential strategies. Even in a big city, there will be variations in the speed and intensity of spread in different parts. So, both types of countermeasures will be needed. We cannot equate a village in Jharkhand with a containment zone in Delhi. We have to customise our response, according to the contours of the epidemic in each place.

The case-fatality ratio seems lower than some Western countries but the proportion of younger people succumbing to the infection in the country is higher as opposed to many other countries. How do you think India can ensure the lowest possible fatalities and what all do you see as major challenges?

Death rates in other countries have been mostly determined by factors like old age and presence of co-morbidities. In India, the co-morbidities occur at much younger ages, being widely prevalent in the age group of 35 years and above.

Diabetes is seen at even younger ages in India. Air pollution levels, another factor for adverse respiratory outcomes, are much higher in India. Just to provide a comparison between India and Italy, in the 20-59 year age group, diabetes is three times more prevalent in Delhi than in Italy. In the 40-49 year age group, prevalence of hypertension is 40% in Delhi compared to 10.7% in Italy...So, younger age alone cannot protect if there are other risk factors. A strong public health system and determined environmental action are needed.

Lockdown gave the governments time to prepare healthcare infrastructure and resources but we are seeing cities like Mumbai earlier and now Delhi struggling as the cases surge. Why do you think that is happening and what can be the way to handle the situation in a better way?

We did not utilise the lockdown to prepare our containment strategy for effective implementation on the ground. Syndromic surveillance of households for early testing and isolation should have been implemented early on... Contact tracing should have been more vigorous. Hospital readiness should have been at a higher level... Citizen volunteers and trained youth groups like NSS and NCC should have been engaged to help with case identification, contact tracing, support for home isolated persons and de-stigmatisation. Even now, such citizen participation is essential.

Since very few patients require ventilators, we should use home isolation for mild patients and admission to oxygen supply-assured hospitals for moderately ill patients, reducing the load on advanced intensive care units. Temporary hospitals can also be set up. The challenge will be to find healthcare providers in required numbers. Young medical and nursing graduates as well as self-employed doctors should be recruited.

Q&A

K SUJATHA RAO

Former Union health secretary

There is so much debate happening around whether or not community transmission is taking place. While Union Health Ministry and the agencies under it have been maintaining that the pandemic has not reached that stage in India yet, most epidemiologists and public health experts stress that admitting it for hotspots such as Delhi, Mumbai, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu is important because that will lead to change in strategy from containment to mitigation. What do you think?

I agree with the epidemiologists and public health experts. Of course, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) director general is right when he says there is no community transmission in India. But then, India is a large country with different characteristics and so it requires differential strategies. While there are areas with no signs of the infection, there are cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Ahmedabad that are causes of great concern and are definitely having community transmission as there are cases with no known source of infection.

Once this is recognised, strategies need to change with much more focus on testing, identifying the infected and isolating them or treating them based on their condition. I am at a complete loss to understand this rigidity on part of the government not to accept community transmission and shifting strategies and policy responses. In these areas, those likely to be vulnerable need to be protected so as to minimise loss of life.

Cities like Delhi, Ahmadabad and Mumbai seem to be struggling in terms of health infrastructure and resources to accommodate and support a large number of patients. What do you think are the steps required to deal with the situation?

They had two months' time; I am surprised that they have not utilised that to ramp up their delivery system. They need to immediately rope in human resources, train them quickly and have them take charge. Private sector needs to be co-opted and infrastructure ramped up. 85 per cent do not need institutional care; it is the 10-15 per cent that need attention. Of these, it is 3-5 per cent of the patients that need very close care. So triaging is important and in accordance with clinical need, patients must obtain appropriate care at home, in decentralised facilities like district hospitals and specialised tertiary hospitals.

What do you think are the short term and long term lessons from the pandemic for the health sector in India?

Several, but I think it is premature to talk about lessons now as the last word has not been said as yet. The epidemic is evolving and so we need to see how the curve finally begins to flatten.

One issue many experts have been pointing out is that it is the National Centre of Disease Control, and not the Indian Council of Medical Research that should have been leading the outbreak management. What is your view on that and why do you think ICMR has been allowed to overshadow NCDC during the crisis?

Well, NCDC is the institution that is mandated to undertake disease surveillance in the country and has been engaged with implementing infectious disease control programmes. So they have the institutional memory and knowledge that would have been useful in working out strategic options in dealing with this epidemic. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is a research body that is mandated to do research and advise the government on issues that must get policy attention.

So, research is one thing – for example, it was ICMR-National TB Research Institute, Chennai, that provided the basis for DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short course), but it was the department of health that then designed the operational strategies for implementing it in the country. So why ICMR got into providing testing strategies and accrediting laboratories for testing, laying down price caps for tests etc. is unclear to me and I don't know the reasons for giving this new mandate to them.

Fall in hospitalisation under PMJAY during lockdown

Essential health services like institutional deliveries, cancer treatment worst-hit

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE 10-week long nationwide Covid-19 lockdown resulted in 51 per cent drop in average weekly hospitalisations under the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY) and essential health services like institutional deliveries and cancer treatment were the worst hit.

While the cancer treatment under the scheme that offers free hospitalisation benefit to the poorest people by up to ₹5 lakh fell by nearly 64 per cent and child birth — both normal deliveries and Caesarean Sections — fell by 26 per cent, says a government report.

The report titled "PM-JAY Under Lockdown: Evidence on Utilization Trends PM-JAY" by the National Health Authority, the government agency that runs the PMJAY Among also said that women, children and the elderly were hit worse than men.

There was wide variation in claim volume trends across states, with the steepest declines — over 75 percent — in Assam, Maharashtra and Bihar, while much smaller declines — about 25 percent or less — were observed in Uttarakhand, Punjab and Kerala.

The total decline in outlays over 10 weeks compared to a hypothetical no-lockdown amounted to over Rs 1000 crore, or 15 percent of the Centre's PMJAY annual budget allocation. "While there is still the possibility of some make up in the lost-out treatment in procedures like knee replacement surgeries, cataract surgeries etc — ancer surgeries, treatment for high fever among others cannot be made up," said Indu Bhushan, CEO of the NHA.

A family waits for an ambulance to go to hospital in Guwahati for corona treatment | PTI

He added that it could take at least one more month or longer for the situation to be anywhere near normal.

Among procedures, planned surgeries such as cataract operations and joint replacements suffered a decline of over 90 percent, while haemodialysis declined by only 6 percent.

The analysis shows that there was a larger decline in utilisation of surgical procedures — 57 percent — than medical cases — 46 percent. "This is to be expected, since surgeries are more commonly planned in advance, whereas medical cases are not." It also showed that more people benefitted under the scheme in private hospitals.

The report highlighted that the weekly nationwide PMJAY claim volume during the first week of lockdown was 64 percent lower than just two weeks earlier and also that the decrease in claim volumes started during the week prior to the lockdown.

"This may partly reflect the one-day 'Janata Curfew' on March 22nd ..and other measures related to international travel and restrictions on congregation of people already in place that week," it said adding, "Together these events likely heralded the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic in the national consciousness."

PANDEMIC POLICY

Trump set to roll out fresh curbs on work visas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THOUSANDS of Indians who hold H-1B visas or have applied for one recently were on tenterhooks on Sunday as US President Donald Trump indicated that he is preparing to sign an executive order suspending work visas as millions of Americans struggle with job losses amid the Covid-19 pandemic. An announcement is expected in the next two days.

"We are going to be announcing something tomorrow or the next day on the visas. You need them for big businesses where they have certain people that have been coming in for a long time, but very little exclusion and they (restrictions) are pretty tight," he said in an interview.

The action is likely to affect H1-B and L-1 visa holders the most.

According to *Bloomberg News* one possibility is that the order would restrict people from entering the US on work visas, including H-1B, for 180 days. Workers who have already been granted those visas, but are outside the US may not be able to enter the country until the order expires. Those already in the US are unlikley to be affected. But, the proposed action may affect those who are waiting for their H-1B visas to be stamped. The stampings were halted as the US consulates closed down due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I returned to India for my H1-B stamping and then the pandemic happened. Now, with the consulates closed and talk of restrictions being imposed, I don't what to do. I hope renewals would be exempt," said Sai Srinivas Penumarthi a software engineer.

Researchers find presence of coronavirus in waste water in the country

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

THE first wastewater based surveillance in India shows presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus in such water while infectivity or transmission through contaminated water is yet to be identified but researchers say it can help to estimate actual Covid-19 infected population.

Researchers from the IIT-Gandhinagar, Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) and Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) carried out sampling on May 8 and 27, 2020 from Old Pirana Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) at Ahmedabad, Gujarat with 106 million litres per day (MLD) capacity receiving effluent of Civil Hospital treating Covid-19 patient.

Viral RNAs were isolated from sewage samples and RT-PCR analysis of viral RNA was done for the presence of SARS-CoV-2. The results showed that the WWTP samples on both May 8 and May 27 were positive with all of ORF1ab, N protein genes and S protein genes, which were examined as SARS-CoV-2 genes.

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the detection of SARS-CoV-2 genes in wastewater samples from India. For all the three genes, the abundance in the wastewater influent was higher in the samples of May 27. This result is consistent with the infection numbers in the area. In India, the daily new confirmed cases in the previous 10 days of the survey days were approximately double, 3000 and 6000 in the case of May 8 and May 27, respectively," said the paper in pre-prints.

The consistency between abundance of SARS-CoV-2 genetic materials and number of confirmed cases was also observed in the previous reports in Australia, France, Italy, Spain and Japan, showing that WBE is promising as a surveillance tool of coronavirus spread in a community.

The team led by Manish Kumar, Discipline of Earth Science, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar aimed to assist concerned authorities and policymakers to formulate and if needed upgrade the coronavirus surveillance to have an explicit picture of the phase of the pandemic.

US health institute halts HCQ clinical trials

New Delhi : After the WHO, the US National Institutes of Health has decided to stop clinical trials to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) for the treatment of hospitalised Covid-19 patients as a study found the malaria drug was very unlikely to be beneficial to hospitalized patients. However, India continues to use the anti-malaria drug for treatment in the country. Last week, the WHO announced that the Solidarity Trial's HCQ arm is being stopped, on the basis of evidence showing it does not reduce the mortality for hospitalised Covid-19 patients.

Doctors' body seeks audit of Covid deaths

Following the continuous spike in Covid deaths, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) demanded a panel saying that people are confused about who the causes of fatalities. In a statement, DAK president Dr Suhail Naik said it is very important that every death should be discussed by a panel to know the underlying cause of death, immediate cause of death, factors leading to the immediate cause, and co-morbidities. "There is lot of confusion among people that how cases are classified into Covid or non-Covid death." He said an accurate count of Covid deaths is critical to ongoing public health surveillance, response and policy switching. So far, 78 people have died after tested positive for Covid-19 in J&K.

FAYAZ WANI
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SRINAGAR DIARY

MS attached for issuing wrong Covid certificate

The government attached Medical Superintendent of a sub-district hospital, Bijbehara, with the office of CMO Anantnag for issuing a "wrong" Covid negative certificate to an expecting mother. The directorate of Health Services Kashmir and the Anantnag chief medical officer had ordered separate inquiries into the matter. A health official said the inquiry reports indicted medical superintendent for "issuing a wrong test certificate of Covid-19 to an expecting mother." The attachment order issued by the DHSK reads: "In view of the report submitted by the inquiry committee, which was constituted by this office, Dr Showkat Hussain Parray is attached with the office of CMO Anantnag with mediate effect till further orders." The Covid-19 positive woman from Shamsipora village of Mattan in her last month of pregnancy, was admitted in Emergency and Trauma Care Hospital, Bijbehara, a designated Covid-19 facility on May 28.

Ex-chief planning officer in DA assets case held

The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Noor Muhammad Wani, a former Budgam chief planning officer, in a disproportionate assets case. A statement issued by the Anti Corruption Bureau stated that a case was registered related to accumulation of assets disproportionate to known source of income. At the time of investigation, the statement said, it was found that the accused raised assets, including a palatial house, double storied school buildings, five kanals of land and several vehicles. During investigation, searches were conducted at Wani's residence and various incriminating documents related to the assets and other properties were seized, said ACB the statement.

ATM with cash stolen in Kulgam, recovered

Unidentified people decamped with an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) along with cash in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. According to police, unknown persons fled with the Automated Teller Machine machine of State Bank of India at Fruit Mandi, Kulgam during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday . The ATM machine had cash worth ₹8.85 lakh. After the incident, police registered a case and launched a manhunt to track down the burglars. The police recovered the Automated Teller Machine in a secluded place in adjoining Laroo village. It seems that the burglars had thrown the Automated Teller Machine at the secluded place after taking out all cash from it.

20 lakh
infections recorded in Latin America, with Brazil alone having more than 10 lakh cases

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	33	24	SNY	Los Angeles	25	15	SNY
Colombo	31	26	TDS	Melbourne	12	8	LR
Doha	40	29	SNY	Moscow	23	12	SNY
Dubai	38	27	SNY	New York	30	21	LC
Houston	33	23	TDS	Singapore	31	25	TDS
Istanbul	26	19	TDS	Toronto	29	19	LC
London	24	13	SNY	Washington DC	32	22	TDS

LOS ANGELES

Cobain's *Unplugged* guitar sells for eye-popping $6 mn

The guitar that Kurt Cobain played during his legendary 1993 MTV Unplugged performance sold for a record $6 million, the auction house said. The retro acoustic-electric 1959 Martin D-18E that Cobain strummed for Nirvana's career-defining performance in New York sold after a bidding war to Peter Freedman, founder of RODE Microphones.

PARIS

Make destroying nature a crime: French council

A citizens' council set up by President Emmanuel Macron to explore measures for cutting carbon emissions urged the French leader on Sunday to hold a referendum on making the destruction of nature a crime. The "ecocide" proposal topped dozens of ideas presented by the 150 randomly picked members of the Citizen's Convention on Climate.

NASHVILLE

Stand-up comedian tests +ve after fainting onstage

Comedian DL Hughley announced he tested positive for Covid-19 after collapsing onstage during a performance in Nashville, Tennessee. The stand-up comedian, 57, lost consciousness while performing and was hospitalised. On Saturday, Hughley posted a video in which he said he was treated for exhaustion and dehydration afterward.

JERUSALEM

Acclaimed Israeli historian, activist Zeev Sternhell dies

Israeli historian and political scientist Zeev Sternhell, one of the leading thinkers of the country's left, has died aged 85, Jerusalem's Hebrew University said Sunday. Polish-born Sternhell, head of the university's political science department, was an outspoken champion of Palestinian rights who strongly criticised Jewish settlements in West Bank.

MADRID

Spain reopens its French borders to revive tourism

Spain reopened its borders with France, getting rid of one of the most potent symbols of Europe's battle against the coronavirus. Europeans are just emerging from some of the world's toughest lockdowns, with cars trickling across the reopened Spain-France border early on Sunday a day after Italy enjoyed its first top-flight football match in 103 days.

BELGRADE

Ruling populists look set to win Serbian election

Serbia went to the polls Sunday in Europe's first national election since the lockdown, although few expect major surprises with the ruling party poised to dominate a scattered opposition, some of whom are boycotting the ballot. In power since 2012, the centre-right Serbian Progressive Party is led by the country's powerful president, Aleksandar Vucic.

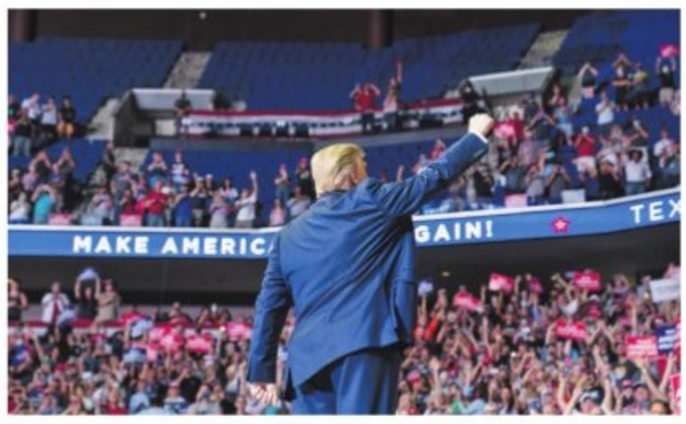
FRANKFURT

100s run riot in German city after drug search

Police in the German city of Stuttgart said Sunday that 20 people were arrested and four police officers injured after a check for drugs sparked attacks on officers and police vehicles and widespread vandalism of stores in the city center. Police said several hundred people were involved. The disturbance started as a reaction to a police search for drugs.

Trump comeback rally a big flop with 1/3rd seats empty

Intended show of political force falls short; 6 campaign aides test +ve



At the campaign rally in Oklahoma, Donald Trump leaned in hard on cultural issues, including the push to tear down statues, but didn't mention George Floyd | AP

TULSA

US President Donald Trump used his his comeback rally to try to define the upcoming election as a choice between national heritage and left-wing radicalism, but his intended show of political force during the pandemic drew thousands short of a full house and was partly overshadowed by new coronavirus cases among his campaign staff.

Trump ignored health warnings and held his first rally in 110 days in what was one of the largest indoor gatherings in the world during an outbreak that has killed more than 120,000 Americans and put 40 million out of work. The rally Saturday night in Tulsa was meant to restart his reelection effort less than five months before the November election.

"The choice in 2020 is very simple," Trump said. "Do you want to bow before the left-wing mob, or do you want to stand up tall and proud as Americans?"

After a three-month break from rallies, Trump returned to regular themes, including boasts about the pre-pandemic economy and complaints about the media. He made no mention of some of the flashpoints roiling the nation, including the abrupt firing of a US attorney in Manhattan, the damaging new book from his former national security adviser or the killing of George Floyd.

Trump aired pent-up grievances about the coronavirus, which he mocked as the "Kung flu," a racist term for COVID-19, which originated in China. He tried to defend his handling of the pandemic, even as cases continue to surge in many states, including Oklahoma.

In the hours before the rally, crowds were significantly lighter than expected, and campaign officials scrapped plans for Trump to speak at an overflow space outdoors.

Inside the 19,000-seat BOK Center, when Trump thundered that "the silent majority is stronger than ever before," about one-third of the seats were empty. Tulsa Fire Department spokesperson Andy Little said the city fire marshal's office reported a crowd of just less than 6,200 in the arena.

Trump tried to explain away the crowd size by blaming the media for scaring people and by insisting there were protesters outside who were "doing bad things." Hundreds of demonstrators flooded the city's downtown streets and blocked traffic at times, but police reported just a handful of arrests.

Before the rally, Trump's campaign disclosed that that six staff members who were helping set up for the event had tested positive for the coronavirus. Campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh said neither the affected staffers nor anyone who was in immediate contact with them would attend the event. *AP*

US must slow testing to not have bad stats, Don suggests

TULSA

WHITE House trade adviser Peter Navarro says US President Donald Trump was being "tongue in cheek" when he claimed at a campaign rally in Oklahoma that he asked officials to slow down coronavirus testing.

Navarro said on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that Trump made the comment in a "light moment."

During Saturday's rally in Tulsa, Trump explained that the "bad part" of widespread testing is that it leads to logging more virus cases. New cases have recently spiked in several US states, but not just due to testing.

The United States has tested over 25 million people for the novel coronavirus. The country has reported more than 2.2 million confirmed cases and about 120,000 COVID-19 deaths. according to a count by Johns Hopkins University. The real numbers are believed to be higher.

"When you do testing to that extent, you're going to find more people, you're going to find more cases," Trump said. "So I said to my people, 'Slow the testing down, please.' They test and they test."

Rising case numbers can partially be explained by the wider availability of testing. Mild cases, previously undetected because of limits on who could be tested, are now showing up in the numbers.

Trump opted to hold his first rally in 110 days despite concerns from local health officials that it could lead to further spread of the virus in Tulsa. Most of the people in attendance at the rally declined to wear a mask to protect against the virus. *AP*

Park stabbing spree a terror attack: UK

LONDON

A stabbing rampage that killed three people as they sat in a British park on a summer evening is being considered a terrorist attack, police said Sunday. A 25-year-old man who is believed to be the lone attacker was in custody.

Authorities said they were not looking for any other suspects and they did not raise Britain's official terrorism threat level from "substantial." Three people were killed and three others seriously wounded in the stabbing attack that came out of the blue Saturday in Forbury Gardens park in Reading, a town of 200,000 people 64 km west of London.

Police stand guard at the Abbey gateway of Forbury Gardens park in Reading town centre following the stabbing attack | AP

"Motivation for this horrific act is far from certain," said Neil Basu, Britain's top counterterrorism police officer, as police forensics officers combed the park for evidence.

Chief Constable John Campbell of Thames Valley Police said officers were called to reports of stabbings just before 7 p.m. and arrived to find a "horrific" scene. He said a suspect was apprehended within five minutes.

Basu said "incredibly brave" unarmed officers detained a 25-year-old local man at the scene. The Thames Valley force later said counterterrorism detectives were taking over the investigation.

"There is no intelligence to suggest that there is any further danger to the public," said Detective Chief Superintendent Ian Hunter.

Police have not identified the suspect, but Britain's national news agency, Press Association, and other media outlets named him as Khairi Saadallah, a Libyan asylum-seeker living in Reading. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

AFGHANISTAN

UN: Healthcare workers deliberately targetted

The United Nations on Sunday released a special report expressing concerns over what it called recent "deliberate attacks" against health care workers and facilities in Afghanistan during the pandemic. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA, said it had documented 12 deliberate acts of violence between March 11 to May 23, and that these attacks constitute war crimes. The report said eight of the attacks were carried out by Taliban insurgents, while three were attributed to Afghan security forces.

BANGLADESH

Airline resumes int'l flights

Bangladesh's state-run airline resumed international flights on Sunday after a suspension of more than two months. A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight carrying 187 passengers left Dhaka for London on Sunday afternoon.

MYANMAR

Rakhine internet ban enters second year

The internet shutdown in Myanmar's conflict-ridden northwest, described by rights groups as the world's longest, entered a second year Sunday with locals and campaigners appealing for an end to the blackout as virus fears grip the region. The Myanmar military has been embroiled in a bloody civil war since January 2019 against the Arakan Army (AA), an insurgent group fighting for more autonomy for ethnic Rakhine Buddhists. The country has so far recorded 287 coronavirus cases including six deaths.

S Korea to limit entry from Pak, Bangladesh amid virus resurgence

South Korea has reported 48 new cases of Covid-19 as health authorities struggle to contain a resurgence that's erasing some of the country's hard-won gains against the virus. Health authorities will also restrict visas and put a temporary ban on non-scheduled flights from Pakistan and Bangladesh, *Bloomberg* reported

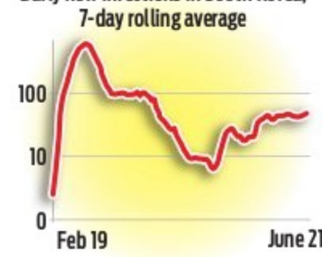
23 out of 67 new cases on Saturday were people from Pakistan and Bangladesh

COVID-19 STATUS

ACTIVE CASES	DEATHS
1,273	280

RECOVERED
10,868

VIRUS TRAJECTORY
Daily new infections in South Korea, 7-day rolling average



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Fakhria Momtaz (C),43, a trainer and founder of Kabul's first yoga centre for women, leads a session on International Yoga Day, at the Shahrak Haji Nabi hilltop on the outskirts of Kabul on Sunday. Momtaz has said in the past that Afghans have criticised her sessions by connecting yoga to Hinduism. She says that yoga is science and a lifestyle | AFP

Chinese outbreak disrupts PepsiCo, Tyson Foods

BEIJING

CHINA banned imports from a top US poultry producer and ordered a Beijing Pepsi factory to close on Sunday as authorites clamped down on food production and distribution amid a new coronavirus cluster in the capital.

Health officials also reported 22 new virus cases in Beijing, where they have tested more than two million residents as they seek to contain a wave of new infections linked to a wholesale market in the capital.

Imports of frozen chicken from Tyson Foods have been "temporarily suspended", the General Administration of Customs said, after a virus outbreak was found at one of the company's production facilities in the US. Products from the firm that have already arrived in China will be confiscated, the statement said.

A truck leaves the Tyson Foods pork plant in Perry, Iowa | AP

US food and drinks giant PepsiCo was also ordered to shut down one of its snack-making plants in Beijing after several employees tested positive, a spokeswoman said. She added that 87 close contacts had been traced and quarantined.

Over 220 people have so far tested positive from the new Beijing clusters that have been traced to chopping boards used to handle imported salmon at the city's Xinfadi market. The market supplies more than 70% of Beijing's fresh produce and has been closed, with officials on Friday advising citizens to dispose of frozen seafood and bean products bought there.

Officials on Friday also announced a nationwide campaign to inspect all fresh products coming from "high-risk countries" following reports of new virus clusters at plants in Germany and the US.

Authorities are targeting those who work in restaurants, supermarkets, markets and food delivery couriers for testing, as per Gao Xiaojun of the Beijing Municipal Helth Commission. *AFP*

China may enact HK law at end of June

Japan China's top lawmaking body has announced a three-day session for the end of this month, a move that raises the possibility of the enactment of a national security law for Hong Kong that has stirred debate and fears in the semi-autonomous territory. The official Xinhua News Agency said that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress would meet from June 28 to 30 in Beijing. The brief report did not mention the Hong Kong security law among possible discussion items, but it could still be on the agenda or added at the meeting.

$33-MN GAMBLE

Hollywood returns to big screen with Russell Crowe thriller

LOS ANGELES

AFTER more than three months of virus-mandated limbo, Hollywood is headed back to the big screen -- and hoping that Russell Crowe's road rage thriller "Unhinged" will jump-start the recovery.

The action film, due out July 10, is set to be the first wide release since US theaters shut their doors in mid-March. Christopher Nolan's much-hyped "Tenet" will follow soon after.

But will the gamble pay off for those quick-moving studios?

Russell Crowe

While top theater chains across the country plan to fire up their projectors in the first half of July, screens in badly-hit New York and Los Angeles don't yet have permission to reopen.

And even with social distancing and sanitation measures boosted, moviegoers' enthusiasm for piling into dark, enclosed auditoriums amid a possible "second wave" of virus cases may fluctuate.

AMC, the world's largest theater chain, caused a stir by initially declining to mandate face masks, saying it did not want to be "drawn into a political controversy."

It did a U-turn on that policy Friday following an outcry.

Everyone from indie distributors to blockbuster studios will be carefully watching to see how the experiment with new theatrical releases proceeds.

"Hollywood is not a place where competitors are known for wishing each other well very often," said "Unhinged" producer Mark Gill.

"And in this particular circumstance, everybody is hoping we do well." *AFP*

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

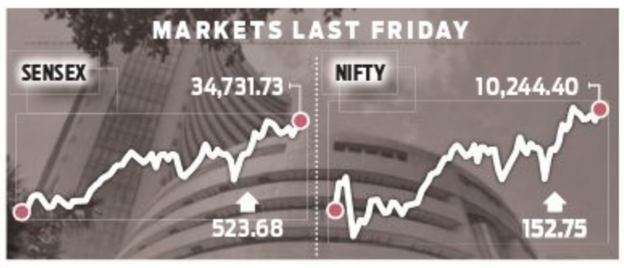
Current Price ₹775

Target Price ₹708.8

Infosys: The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to pose continued near-term challenges on demand, supply, pricing and working capital fronts. Near-term headwinds are expected to impact all verticals and geographies. Beyond near-term challenges, we expect INFO to be a key beneficiary of recovery in IT spends in FY22E. We estimate ~10% earnings CAGR over FY20-22E and ROE of 32%.

– Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of **TNIE.**



EXPRESS READ

AAR RULING

NO INPUT CREDIT ON GST PAID FOR HIRED VEHICLES

Companies will not be able to claim input tax credit for GST paid on hiring commercial vehicles for transportation of employees, if providing such a service is not obligatory under any law, the Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) has said. The ruling was made by the Himachal Pradesh AAR on an application filed by Prasar Bharti Broadcasting Corporation (All India Radio), Shimla.

CAPITAL

FPIs INVEST AROUND ₹17,985 CR IN JUNE SO FAR

Foreign portfolio investors have infused a net ₹17,985 crore into the Indian capital markets in June so far amid increasing liquidity and higher risk appetite. According to the latest depositories data, a net sum of ₹20,527 crore was pumped into equities by FPIs between June 1-19, while they withdrew a net ₹2,569 crore from the debt segment. This took the total net investment to ₹17,985 crore.

Insurance cover for home healthcare arrives

Sector regulator IRDAI is currently looking into whether such benefits should be extended across the industry

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

WITH an ever-increasing number of Covid-19 cases inundating hospitals across the country, home treatment of ailments including Covid-19 is gaining crucial importance. Some insurers have already begun extending the benefits of existing policies for home treatments, and insurance regulator IRDAI is likely to extend such cover on an industry-wide basis.

ICICI Lombard, for instance, has launched a home-care service under which customers can get themselves treated at home instead of having to avail hospitalisation to claim insurance. Additional benefits and relaxations have been arrived at keeping in view the challenges faced by customers due to the pandemic and the associated restrictions, it added.

"As the pandemic continues to throw new challenges, we thought it is important to ensure that we effectively meet the emerging needs of our customers," said Sanjeev Mantri, executive director at ICICI Lombard. The insurer has joined hands with private hospitals and home care service providers Portea and Healthcare at Home for this facility.

REVISED RULES

- IRDAI is examining whether cover should be extended for home treatment pan-India
- Union Health ministry has advised home isolation for mild Covid-19 infections

The service will include remote monitoring by medical professionals, while nurses, doctors and physiotherapists will also come and check patients at their residences if the need arises. Currently, several health insurance products include a lesser known domiciliary hospitalisation cover, which pays for treatment taken at home under specific circumstances. This could turn out to be policyholders' unlikely saviour during a pandemic. As per existing norms, domiciliary hospitalisation refers to treatment prescribed by a doctor that requires hospitalisation, but can be provided at home if the patient's condition does not permit them to be moved to a hospital or if hospital rooms are not available. However, not all products include this clause.

This is one reason why insurance regulator IRDAI is actively mulling including home treatment expenses under the permissible category of claims for health insurance. The Health Ministry has recommended home isolation for mild Covid-19 infections without hospitalisation

DATA SCAN

DIVING INTO ECONOMIC STATISTICS

RAJAS KELKAR

WHEN the Indian government announced an economic package to fight the Covid-19 pandemic in May 2020, the nationwide online search for the term 'GDP' witnessed a spike like never before, according to Google Trends.

Each day, a lot of economic data keeps getting pushed out. If you are not into tracking financial markets daily, you could be overwhelmed. Searching for the term 'GDP' is perhaps the first step.

Where to begin?

Gross Domestic Product or GDP is the aggregate value of goods and services that are produced in a country. It is a fundamental macro-economic data. Every quarter, the government announces the data. For the quarter ended March 2020, India's GDP growth was 3.1 per cent, and for the full year ended March 2020, it was pegged at 4.2 per cent. The annual growth rate was the slowest in 11 years.

A beautiful assortment of economic assessment is available in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) releases. When the RBI's monetary policy committee announces the credit policy stance, it releases a bunch of documents. The RBI's Policy Statement issued is an important document.

The minutes of the credit policy committee meeting is an even better one. RBI releases them within a couple weeks of the meeting. Members of the RBI MPC are an authority in economics in their own right.

There are a reasonably large number of macro-economic indicators used to track the economy. Inside this document, you get an essential update on the ongoing economic situation.

It also makes sense of that information released through the year. You may want to read it regularly—every two months—to get up to speed with the economic developments.

What do these minutes say?

Minutes of the monetary policy committee meetings held in the last week of May 2020 highlight that India's macro-economic indicators are deteriorating rapidly.

Slow growth, falling non-food credit, collapse in demand resulted in members voting a 0.40 per cent or 40 basis points cut in the repo rate—the rate at which RBI lends money to lending institutions or banks.

The idea of having low borrowing rates in the banking system is to stimulate economic growth. For that purpose, banks have to lend more money to businesses.

The committee observed that the credit growth in India had decelerated to multi-year lows on account of dented demand and heightened risk aversion. Businesses do not have an appetite or a repayment capability to take new loans. At the same time, they are saving money instead of taking any business risks by expanding.

India's merchandise trade slumped in April 2020, with exports shrinking by 60.3 per cent and imports by 58.6 per cent over the year-ago period, respectively. That is another indicator of a slump in demand for goods and services.

The committee members observed that the macroeconomic impact of the pandemic is turning out to be more severe than initially anticipated. Various sectors of the economy are experiencing acute stress, according to the panel. The committee also observed that beyond the destruction of economic and financial activity, livelihood and health was severely affected.

The panel justifies a low-interest rate regime to boost economic activity in the country.

A more significant point of concern is that the RBI MPC committee did not make any forecast for the outlook of growth and consumer price or retail inflation.

However, there are some green shoots.

Credit rating agencies assign a rating to a country based on the debt repayment prospects. While the commentary was negative from credit-rating firm Moody's, there was no changes in ratings.

Fitch, another rating agency, downgraded India's outlook to negative from stable. They expect a bounce back once the economic activity opens up. The RBI MPC committee has also highlighted India's agriculture sector. It is expected to do well as the Indian Meteorological Department has predicted a normal monsoon.

Businesses rely on a predictable trend for a country's economic growth. Most of them depend on that for their business to grow. From a financial markets standpoint, the profitability of companies going forward is fraught with uncertainty. Analysts are putting out profit estimates that are getting revised downwards. Yet, central banks in the US and Europe are pumping more dollars and euros into financial markets. That is fuelling a rally in global markets.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

GDP GROWTH FALLING

4.2 per cent

is the GDP growth for the previous financial year 2019-20 by the Government of India

RBI RATE CUTS GATHER PACE

0.40%

was the quantum of the RBI's most recent repo rate cut, with slow growth, falling non-food credit, and a collapse in demand spurring it to act

MONEY-WISE

You can help in boosting your parents' financial well-being

PV SUBRAMANYAM

Do you help your parents financially? I mean do you send money to your parent(s) on a regular basis?

Or do you sporadically send them money when they ask for it?

Or do you send money when they have big medical expenses or they wish to travel or do some major repair at home?

Well, I do know of many people doing this—and the smartest way of doing this is to transfer big chunk(s) of money to them so that they can invest it and earn the money in their own name. You can even transfer some assets like bank fixed deposits to them. I mean transferring assets to them instead of transferring money for their expenses.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹ 40 a day'

Say you are 40 years old with a 63-year-old mother and an 83-year-old grandmother, and they are staying together with your mother hiring help to look after your grandmother.

The best thing to do is to transfer ₹10,00,000 to your grandmother and ₹10,00,000 to your mother. Of course it could even be your parents instead of it being your grandmother, but just a reminder that even the earlier generation could need financial support.

What they should do with the money is simple. They should then put it in the Senior Citizens saving scheme and earn say 7% tax-free (assuming they do not have taxable income EVEN after this income of ₹70,000). At the current interest rate scenario, this is very useful because this ₹20 lakh will not have any clubbing or have any other tax implications. Of course, I am assuming that ₹70,000 is what they need from you. If they need more income, simply transfer more capital. This is very efficient from the Income Tax point of view.

No point in earning money, paying tax, and then giving away that money for expenses. Instead let the capital be given away so that the person who wants it earns it herself. I am assuming that you are earning (say) ₹35 lakh and are taxed at a high bracket, while your mother and grandmother do not have any other sources of income.

One more important thing to do is to automate all their expenses—mobile, landline, electricity, gas, society charges—put it on a credit card, and make sure that the bills are paid on time. Also do that for your own expenses—rent, (if you had an EMI it would be a direct debit), gas, telephone, society charges, children's fees, children's hobby classes (quarterly?)—you save a lot of trouble and about 50 cheque leaves a year, if not more!

Of course, if you are not the only child, make sure that you tell the other siblings about this, and make yourself the second holder. Make sure that your spouse is either the 3rd holder or at least the nominee.

There is another option that is available to you, especially if you have a lump-sum to invest. You can put it in a ultra-short bond fund or a corporate bond fund.

Obviously this should be a debt fund with a 2-year duration, and you should be willing to top it up once in 3 or 4 years or as the need arises. They should then do a systematic withdrawal as per their requirement.

GST applicable on 'construction services'

CONTINUED FROM P1

THE sale of land, an immovable property and exempt from GST, attracts only stamp duty—as is the case for a building that has received a completion certificate. But the AAR observed that such transactions would be out of the GST net only if they "exclusively deal with transfer of title or transfer of ownership of land".

In the case of a developed plot with amenities, the AAR held that GST should be applicable since clause 5(b) of Schedule-II of the CGST Act defines the 'construction of a complex intended for sale to a buyer' as a supply of service.

The AAR observed that many activities like levelling the land, construction of boundary walls and roads, and laying of underground cables and water pipelines is carried out during plot development.

LEVY ON ADDING AMENITIES

Selling a plot with amenities like power/water connection to attract GST as they are a supply of service, ARR rules

Activities like construction of boundary walls and laying cables and water pipelines are part of its development; sellers charge rates on super built-up basis, it pointed out

At present, plot sale attracts stamp duty

"The sellers charge the rates on super built-up basis and not the actual measure of the plot... (this) includes the area used for common amenities, roads, water tank and other infrastructure... Thus, in effect the seller is collecting charges towards the land as well as the common amenities..," the ruling noted.

This was "tantamount to rendering of service", the AAR pointed out, adding that a similar view had been taken by the Supreme Court in the case of M/s Narne Construction P Ltd.

"Thus, the said activity is covered under 'construction services' and GST is payable on the sale of developed plots in terms of CGST Act," Gujarat state's AAR ruled.

"The ruling is quite negative for developers since, so far, GST was not being levied on developed plots. Now, many will have to rethink pricing structures and sale strategies," a sales manager at a top real estate firm said. GST on sale of affordable under-construction real estate is taxed at 1 per cent, and others at 5 per cent currently. This makes the substance of the agreement important, since the inclusion of amenities in the bill would attract GST, experts added.

BETTER YIELDS

Return-hungry investors eye US, China-focused funds

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

EVEN as India-focused Mutual Funds have been giving lower returns over the recent past, reeling under economic uncertainty, big investors are increasingly turning their focus toward the international market — especially on funds focused towards China and the US where better returns are on offer.

According to wealth managers, apart from the US, China has become a particularly popular market, with many companies having begun investing there for better returns.

For instance, the Edelweiss Greater China Equity Offshore Fund, which focuses on the country has delivered a compounded annualized return of 14.17 per cent, compared with 7.76 per cent for the BSE 500. A fund of funds, this scheme invests in JPMorgan Funds-Greater China Fund and is directed at investors who are ready to take larger risks and are looking to diversifying their portfolio geographically. It invests in the China, Hong Kong and Taiwan markets. Benchmarked to the MSCI Golden Dragon Index, it covers sectors like healthcare and IT, and its four top holdings are Alibaba, Tencent, Taiwan Semiconductor and Ping An Insurance.

There are a few other Indian MFs which invest in Chinese markets, including the Franklin Asian Equity Fund and HSBC Asia Pacific (ex-Japan) Dividend Yield Fund. Even when not solely focussed on China, a majority of their investment goes into the Chinese market and have been delivering better returns than Indian peers. Experts claim that the gloomy forecast for the Indian economy, coupled with uncertainty in the post-Covid world are forcing investors to take the chance.

"We have received multiple queries where even mid-range investors are asking for the international funds. Not everyone is investing but queries have increased manifold," Rakesh Malhotra, a wealth manager said. The reason is due to the greater risk appetite among certain investors and the flip flops of domestic mutual funds over the past year.

"MFs are still on shaky ground and the NBFC problem is not over yet... So, they are diversifying to other geographies," he added. However, the US still remains the preferred market for funds going overseas, particularly those which focus on good companies.

For instance, Motilal Oswal Nasdaq 100 has delivered 36.4 per cent returns over the last one year. It invests in the Nasdaq-100 ETF and has remained one of the best performers among international funds in the one-year timeframe. Another top performer remains PGIM India Global Equity Opportunities Fund, giving a return of 31.8 per cent over the last year. It invests in firms like Netflix and Alibaba. However, it is important to be aware of tax implications. While there is no maximum limit for investing in international MFs of India-based AMCs, investing in global funds are taxed on par with debt funds.

First-class spin legend Rajinder Goel passes away

Legendary spinner Rajinder Goel died on Sunday of age-related illness. He was 77. Despite taking 750 wickets from 157 first-class games for Haryana and North Zone, Goel couldn't play for India because Bishan Singh Bedi was at his peak at that time. He received the BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented by Bedi.

FAST & GLORIOUS

KNOW JHULAN GOSWAMI

An icon of women's cricket and inspiration for many, speedster Jhulan Goswami talks to **Atreyo Mukhopadhyay** about missing Test cricket, India's pace battery and the next World Cup...

ILLUSTRATION: AMIT BANDRE

DEBUT: JAN 26, 2002. DOMESTIC TEAM: BENGAL

STYLE: RIGHT-ARM MEDIUM-PACE

ODIS

M	WKTS	ECO
182	225	3.28

T20S

M	WKTS	ECO
68	56	5.45

TESTS

M	WKTS	AVG
10	40	16.62

ICC RANKING: 6
BEST: 1 (2017 & 2019)

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Career-best 10-wicket haul propelled India to first-ever Test series win in England in 2006.

ICC Women's Player of Year in 2007, when no Indian male player bagged any individual award.

Captained India from 2008-2011. India won 12 of 25 ODIs and 8 of 18 T20Is, reached T20 World Cup semifinals in 2010

Arjuna Award in 2010.

In 2012, became second Indian women's cricketer after Diana Edulji to receive Padma Shri.

In 2017, broke a decade-long record to become the highest wicket-taker in women's ODIs. Surpassed Australia's Cathryn Fitzpatrick (180 scalps).

Retired from T20Is in August 2018, three months before T20 WC.

In March 2019, reclaimed No 1 ranking in ODIs.

LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS

First woman to take 200 ODI wickets & 300 wickets across formats.

No 1 bowler in ODIs for 1,873 days. Only Fitzpatrick has spent more days at the top (2113).

Highest wicket-taker for India and 4th highest overall in ODI World Cups — 36 in 28 games.

Jhulan Goswami is one of the most remarkable cricketers to have represented the Indian women's team. That's because she is a rare fast bowler to have emerged from the country, who at her peak was also among the fastest in the world, if not the one. On the last lap of a striking career which has seen her become the highest wicket-taker in women's ODIs, the player turning 38 in November had a chat with this daily on various topics. Excerpts:

You have won accolades like ICC Player of the Year, Padma Shri and Arjuna. How different or special is to win the respect of opponents, who say you were the fastest they played against?

When you are doing a job like ours, sometimes you draw applauds. Sometimes you don't. So recognition is not the most important. When playing for the country, you are given a role. There are certain responsibilities and the team expects something specific from you. How you fulfil those is what matters. There are plans. Executing them with all sincerity is the challenge. When you are doing these things, wanting to do it and thinking how to do it better, things like recognition cease to matter.

It is possible that I got more success because I strove to surpass myself and perform beyond my abilities. That is what I have always done and that is what I will do for as long as I play the game. Maybe, that's why I got noticed more often.

Being a fast bowler on unresponsive pitches, going through hardships when there was no immediate reward in sight and doing it for so many years — what kept you going?

If you look at the current crop of fast bowlers in the men's team, they as a group clock 140kmph at home and when playing abroad. They also grew up on pitches that I did. So that's not necessarily an impediment, if you really want to do what you love doing. There was a time when pitches were not conducive for bowlers like us, but domestic cricket has changed. You get all sorts of tracks these days, from flat to hard with true and even bounce.

I got hooked onto fast bowling watching others. I used to imitate whom I saw on TV — Kapil Dev initially, then Javagal Srinath, Glenn McGrath... My height helped. But I also made sure that I followed what my coaches and seniors said. Maybe, what I did different was I wanted to get as close to perfection as possible, rather than just doing it. The flip side of doing this as a quick bowler is injuries. The body gives in at times. I've had to miss matches and tournaments. If this is called working hard, I did it. But you have to do that in many other walks of life. When you follow your passion, it doesn't feel like hard work.

Being a role model for fast bowlers and medium-pacers in women's cricket, how does it feel to see the current Indian team relying mostly on spinners?

This is up to the team management. They think spin is our best bet at the moment. Strategies are made accordingly and the combination is based on that. They have seen that spin is our best weapon to counter the opposition. And this plan has given us success.

We reached the T20 World Cup final winning all the matches on the way. I would say, because Plan A worked throughout the competition, Plan B was not required. It doesn't mean we don't have good medium-pacers in the next lot. Shikha Pandey, Mansi Joshi, Arundhati Reddy, Pooja Vastrakar are all very promising. They have done decently when given the opportunity. Importantly, they are serious in training and working hard in order to be ready for the opportunity as and when it comes.

You grew up playing with the red ball, used red and white for a while before women's cricket became white ball only. As a bowler, how was this transition?

Making adjustments is a part of this game. When we started, there was no T20. We had to make the change after a certain age. Now, everybody has got used to it. Similarly, I was accustomed to the red ball and hardly played with a white ball for some time. When that became the norm, we had to study how differently a white ball swings, how to play and how to react to it.

You can't help it. So we had to change with time, prepare and plan differently. It's all about adapting. It's like playing on a seaming track after playing on spinning tracks. The one who adapts better, stands a better chance of succeeding.

You have an impressive Test match record and played a crucial role in Test wins in England. Do you miss playing Test matches?

For every cricketer, Test match or multi-day games are the ultimate test. Without a doubt, this format is the most challenging because of the effort it demands. Like bowling the last spell of the day, after standing there for long hours. Or a passage of play in the fourth innings which is going to determine the outcome of the match. You are tired but still trying to give your best. It's the real test because that's when you have to synchronise the body and the mind.

Playing in whites with red balls has a different kind of charm as well, which can't be matched. Unfortunately, we don't play this format any more. The ICC has a plan for women's cricket where ODIs and T20Is are priority. And it's a good plan I must say. So we have accepted it, although there is no denying that we all miss playing the longer format.

There have been many memorable moments. If you pick one or two, what would be those?

When you play for such a long time and be part of some victorious campaigns, it's difficult to choose. There are quite a few memorable moments actually, when we did well as a team. Reaching the 2017 World Cup final, beating Australia and New Zealand. The 2007 quadrangular series as well. But because Test cricket is so important for me, I would say the 2006 win in England was very special. That was our first Test series win in England. To have contributed to it and also in the 2014 Test win in England occupy a special place.

You are a handy bat and average above 25 in Tests. Both your Test fifties came in England. Spearheading the attack, do you think your batting got neglected?

I wouldn't say that. I tried doing my best in whatever role I was assigned and whichever number I was sent in. The goal was to contribute in every possible way. Batting was a different challenge and I faced it with the best of my abilities. In the end, I am happy if I have contributed to the team's cause. There are no regrets as long as I am convinced that I did the best that I could have.

In the last leg of a long career, a World Cup next year and activities restricted due to the lockdown... How are you coping?

I don't think it will take long to be back in the groove once we start full fledged training and hit the ground. I'm sure the BCCI will organise training camps and practice matches because we need a bit of time to prepare individually and as a team. We are doing workouts at home and following routines, monitored by the team support staff. Obviously, that's not enough as we all need to be back on the field. But getting back in shape shouldn't be a problem.

Painful return for Arsenal

Three injuries, two losses, one goal, zero points. It has been a tough few days for Arsenal since resumption of the Premier League. Here's a glace at the results and the monumental task ahead for Mikel Arteta and his men...

MOMENTUM LOST

A 2-1 defeat at Brighton on Saturday came only three days after a 0-3 loss against Manchester City, with the demoralizing results robbing Arsenal of the momentum they had before the suspension of the league three months ago. Before resumption, Arsenal had been the only unbeaten side in EPL this year.

INJURY WOES & CL RACE

Qualification for the Champions League looks bleak — Arsenal is in 10th place, six points off Man United in fifth — and manager Mikel Arteta also has a growing injury list to deal with in this congested period of matches. Bernd Leno joined that list after landing awkwardly on his right knee after being given a nudge by Brighton striker Neal Maupay in an aerial challenge. Leno, arguably Arsenal best player this season, is likely to be out for the rest of the season. Granit Xhaka was stretchered off early in Gunners' defeat at Manchester City.

FA CUP ROUTE

The 13-time league winner's most likely route into European competition (Europa League) next season might now be through winning the FA Cup, which resumes at the quarterfinal stage next weekend.

It is unacceptable, the way we lost the game. The fact we missed so many chances and we did not compete for the second goal...

-Mikel Arteta, Arsenal manager

13

Excluding penalties, only Aston Villa (15) have conceded more goals from set piece situations than Arsenal (13).

41

Arsenal have conceded 41 goals so far this season, joint-highest with Tottenham among teams in the top-10.

Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno was injured in the 36th minute of his team's clash against Brighton on Saturday, after a collision with Neal Maupay

SUNDAY'S RESULTS: West Ham 0-2 Wolves, Bournemouth 0-2 Crystal Palace, New Castle 3-0 Sheffield.

FORMULA ONE

Hami to form diversity panel

AP @London

SIX-TIME Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton is to set up a commission to increase diversity in motorsport. The Mercedes driver said the aim of the Hamilton Commission would be to make the sport "become as diverse as the complex and multicultural world we live in."

Writing in British newspaper *The Sunday Times*, Hamilton said it would be a research partnership dedicated to exploring how motorsport can be used as a vehicle to "engage more young people from Black backgrounds with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and, ultimately, employ them on our teams or in other engineering sectors."

"I've been fighting the stigma of racism throughout my racing career — from kids throwing things at me while karting, to being taunted by fans in black face at a 2007 grand prix, one of my first Formula One races," he wrote.

I've been fighting the stigma of racism throughout my racing career — from kids throwing things at me while karting, to being taunted by fans in black face at a 2007 grand prix, one of my first Formula One races.

Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes racer

"I'm used to being one of very few people of colour on my teams and, more than that, I'm used to the idea that no one will speak up for me when I face racism, because no one personally feels or understands my experience."

Hamilton, who is the only black world champion in F1, has spoken widely about racism after saying he was left feeling "so much anger, sadness and disbelief" following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis last month.

"I see those of you who are staying silent, some of you the biggest of stars yet you stay silent in the midst of injustice," the Mercedes driver wrote on Instagram. "Not a sign from anybody in my industry which of course is a white-dominated sport. I'm one of the only people of colour there yet I stand alone."

He wrote in the paper that the "institutional barriers that have kept F1 highly exclusive persist," adding that the thousands of people employed in motorsport need to be more representative of society.

"Winning championships is great, but I want to be remembered for my work creating a more equal society through education," he added.

EXPRESS READ

Starc gives insurers video for $1.53mn IPL payout

SYDNEY: Mitchell Starc furnished video footage of the second Test against South Africa in 2018 to prove that he got injured real-time and deserves an insurance payout of $1.53 million for losing his IPL deal with Kolkata Knight Riders. Starc had filed a lawsuit against his insurers last April. The insurers, however, had disputed the timing of the injury in second Test at Port Elizabeth. *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that civil trial has been rescheduled to August 12.

Kohli terrific guy & leader, feels Smith

NEW DELHI: Australia's Steve Smith has hailed Indian superstar and on-field rival Virat Kohli as a "terrific guy" and a strong leader who plays hard on the field. "I had few conversations with him (Virat) off the field, few messages here and there...," Smith told *Star Sports* on Saturday. "He is a terrific guy and we both play hard out on the field."

Will play IPL if T20 WC is postponed: Warner

NEW DELHI: Opener David Warner is "very sure and positive" that he and other Australian players will be able to play the IPL if the T20 World Cup is postponed. "... and if it is unlikely if the World Cup can't go ahead, then I am very sure and positive that we will be able to come and play in the IPL if that replaces the World Cup schedule," he said.

Russian league tie pushed back after 3 test +ve

MOSCOW: Dynamo Moscow's Russian Premier League clash at Krasnodar has been pushed back almost a month after three of their players including former Tottenham forward Clinton Njie tested positive for coronavirus. The match is part of the already troubled first round of fixtures sinces the pandemic shut down the league for three months. "The match between Krasnodar and Dynamo Moscow will be played on July 19," the Russian football federation said in a statement following a meeting of its executive committee.

EURO FOOTBALL

Atletico honour Covid-19 victims, earn hard-fought win

AP @Barcelona

ATLETICO Madrid honoured the club's victims of the coronavirus pandemic and earned a hard-fought victory on Saturday in its first home game since the Spanish league resumed.

Substitute Victor "Vitolo" Machin scored in the 81st minute as Atletico beat Valladolid 1-0. The victory lifted Diego Simeone's team past Sevilla and into third place on head-to-head goal difference.

Barcelona lead the league by three points over Real Madrid, which can pull level if it wins at Real Sociedad on Sunday. Madrid holds the tiebreaker between the two in case of a tie. Atletico and Sevilla trail Barcelona by 13 points with eight games left.

Atletico used the occasion of its first match at the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium in more than three months to pay tribute to its former coach Radomir Antic, three former players, and a 14-year-old youth player who died during the pandemic.

A jersey with Antic's name was placed on a seat next to Simeone on the bench, while the four players had shirts with their names draped on seats in the empty stands. A violinist played the club's anthem to honour all of Spain's over 28,000 virus victims before kickoff. The game, like all matches in the league since it resumed, was played without fans. "It is wonderful to be back in our stadium," Simeone said.

Atletico's Victor "Vitolo" Machin (c) came off the bench to score the winner in the 81st minute vs Valladolid | AFP

"Our fans were not here in person, but they were so in spirit." Vitolo went on in the 73rd and broke the deadlock when he headed in after goalkeeper Jose Caro failed to punch a corner away, leaving his goal undefended. The ball fell to Vitolo at the far post and he guided his header home.

Despite Valladolid coach Sergio Gonzalez making nine changes to the regular line-up, his team appeared comfortable absorbing the hosts' attacks and hitting back on the break.

"We knew that Valladolid would be a very tough team to beat," said Vitolo, who hadn't played since the competition restarted last week.

"You could tell that Valladolid is well organised and competes hard," the forward said. "It was tough to find holes in their defense..."

Serie A resumes

MILAN: Torino's Andrea Belotti missed a penalty as Serie A resumed on Saturday after a three-month coronavirus shutdown with his side drawing 1-1 at home with Parma as ten-man Verona held on to beat Cagliari 2-1. Juraj Kucka grabbed a point for Parma with his 31st-minute leveller after Nicolas Nkoulou had nodded the hosts ahead after quarter of an hour behind closed doors at Turin's Stadio Olimpico.

A Siberian town with the world's widest temperature range has recorded a new high amid a heat wave that is contributing to severe forest fires. The temperature in Verkhoyansk hit 38ºC on Saturday. The town is located just above the Arctic Circle in the Sakha Republic.

EXFILE

FINAL CORE TESTING

NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) Programme is concluding its structural qualification test series with one upcoming final test. The liquid oxygen (LOX) tank test article* will help NASA verify if the components are ready for Artemis 1

A train carrying rocket motors after departing Utah for Florida on June 5, 2020

THE LOX TANK IS ONE OF TWO PROPELLANT TANKS THAT WILL PRODUCE MORE THAN 2 MILLION POUNDS OF THRUST

The liquid oxygen tank structural test article for NASA's SLS rocket's core stage | NASA

TANK'S POINT OF FAILURE

1. Engineers are expected to break a structural test article of the tank on purpose for the test
2. The liquid oxygen tank's structure is identical to the tank that is part of the SLS core stage
3. This will provide power to help launch the Artemis missions to the Moon
4. The liquid oxygen tank has completed baseline testing and the upcoming test will find the tank's point of failure

TEST APPARATUS

- The tank is enclosed in a cage-like structure that is part of the test stand
- Hydraulic systems will apply millions of pounds of force to push, pull and bend the liquid oxygen tank test article to see just how much pressure the tank can take
- The forces simulate what the tank is expected to experience during launch and flight
- For the test, the tank will be filled with water to simulate the liquid oxygen propellant used for flight. When the tank ruptures, the water may create a loud sound as it bursts through the tank's skin

Breaking the propellant tank today on Earth will provide us with valuable data for safely and efficiently flying SLS on the Artemis missions to the Moon

Neil Otte, chief engineer for the SLS Stages Office

PREVIOUS TESTS

Earlier this year, NASA and Boeing engineers subjected the tank to 23 baseline tests that simulate actual flight conditions to ensure the rocket is ready for the Artemis lunar missions

FINAL TEST

This is final test in a series of structural qualification tests that have pushed the rocket's structures to the limits from top to bottom to help ensure the rocket is ready for the Artemis lunar missions

IMPORTANCE

THE QUALIFICATION TESTS WILL HELP VERIFY MODELS SHOWING THE STRUCTURAL DESIGN CAN SURVIVE A FLIGHT

Structural testing has been completed on three of the largest core stage structures

❶ ENGINE SECTION ❷ INTERTANK ❸ LIQUID HYDROGEN TANK

PART OF ARTEMIS

The SLS rocket, Orion spacecraft, Gateway and human landing system are part of NASA's backbone for deep space exploration

The Artemis programme is part of America's broader Moon to Mars exploration approach, in which astronauts will explore the Moon and gain experience to enable humanity's next giant leap, sending humans to Mars

*A test article is a version of spacecraft or related vehicle or equipment, built as a platform to perform testing on particular portions of a spacecraft

Mt Merapi spewing ash 6 km high

PACIFIC RING OF FIRE

JAKARTA: Indonesia's Mount Merapi, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted twice on Sunday, sending clouds of grey ash 6,000 metres into the sky, the country's geological agency said.

The two eruptions lasted around seven minutes, according to the agency, and prompted local authorities to order residents to stay outside a three-kilometre no-go zone around the rumbling crater near Indonesia's cultural capital Yogyakarta.

The agency did not raise the volcano's alert status after the eruptions, but it advised commercial planes to be cautious in the area.

Local media reported that people in neighbouring areas including Sleman and Klaten heard strong rumbling sounds this morning.

Mount Merapi's last major eruption in 2010 killed more than 300 people and forced the evacuation of some 2,80,000 residents from surrounding areas. That was its most powerful eruption since 1930, which killed around 1,300 people, while another explosion in 1994 took about 60 lives.

Indonesia has more than 17,000 islands and islets — and nearly 130 active volcanoes.

The archipelago nation sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", a vast zone of geological instability where the collision of tectonic plates causes frequent quakes and major volcanic activity.

Hubble captures Butterfly & Jewel Bug nebulae in detail

Researchers hypothesise that these giant clouds of dust and gas may be an indirect evidence of two companion stars merging

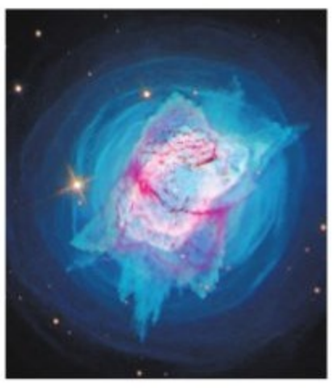
DYNAMIC DUO

LONDON: NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has captured amazing images of the Butterfly and the Jewel Bug nebulae in unprecedented detail.

These new images reveal in vivid detail how both nebulas are splitting themselves apart on extremely short timescales — allowing astronomers to see changes over the past couple decades, the space agency said.

Some of these rapid changes may be indirect evidence of one star merging with its companion star.

"The nebula NGC 7027 (Jewel Bug) shows emission at an incredibly large number of different wavelengths, each of which highlights not only a specific chemical element in the nebula, but also the significant, ongoing changes in its structure," said Joel Kastner of Rochester Institute of Technology and leader of the study published in the journal *Galaxies*. The researchers also observed the NGC 6302 (Butterfly Nebula), which is a counterpart to the "Jewel Bug" nebula: Both are among the dustiest planetary nebulas known and both also contain unusually large masses of gas because they are so newly formed.



Researchers suspect that at the hearts of both nebulas are — or were — two stars circling around each other, like a pair of figure skaters. Evidence for such a central "dynamic duo" comes from the bizarre shapes of these nebulas. Each has a pinched, dusty waist and polar lobes or outflows, as well as other, more complex symmetrical patterns.

A leading theory for the generation of such structures in planetary nebulas is that the mass-losing star is one of two stars in a binary system. The two stars orbit one another closely enough that they eventually interact, producing a gas disc around one or both stars.

Aerial photo shows workers covering the Presena glacier with geotextile sheets | AFP

Italians cover glaciers with tarpaulins to slow melting

PRESENA GLACIER: A vast tarpaulin unravels, gathering speed as it bounces down the glacier over glinting snow. Summer is here and the alpine ice is being protected from global warming.

In northern Italy, the Presena glacier has lost more than one third of its volume since 1993.

Once the ski season is over and cable cars are berthed, conservationists race to try and stop it melting by using white tarps that block the Sun's rays. "This area is continuously shrinking, so we cover as much of it as possible," explains Davide Panizza, 34, who heads the Carosello-Tonale company that does the work.

From around 30,000 square metres covered in 2008 when the project began, his team now places 1,00,000 square metres under wraps.

The coverings are "geotextile tarpaulins that reflect sunlight, maintaining a temperature lower than the external one, and thus preserving as much snow as possible," he told *AFP*.

On the border between the Lombardy and Trentino Alto Adige regions, workers unroll the sheets in long strips, covering an area at an altitude of 2700 to 3000 metres.

CERN approves a huge new 100 km collider

LONDON: Last week, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) backed a new particle accelerator that is expected to be four times bigger than the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). The Future Circle Collider (FCC) was first proposed in 2017 and will have a 100-kilometre circumference. It is expected to be six times more powerful than the LHC and is estimated to cost around $23 billion.

The new machine would collide electrons with their antimatter partners, positrons, by the middle of the century, according to media reports. The collider will be built in an underground tunnel near CERN's location in Geneva, Switzerland. The machine will enable physicists to study the properties of the Higgs boson and, later, to host an even more powerful machine that will collide protons and last well into the second half of the century.

"It's probing nature at the shortest distances and looking for the smallest things we can see ... it's a real exploratory mission. Everyone agrees that's what we need to do. The question has been: what's the best machine to do it? said Prof Jon Butterworth, of University College London before CERN's council meeting last week.

The machine is expected to be built in stages. For the first phase, the FCC would collide electrons and their positive counterparts, positrons, *The Guardian* reported. Then it would collide electrons with much heavier nuclei of lead atoms.

3rd YEAR REMEMBRANCE

Date of Birth: 16.02.1954

Date of Demise: 22.06.2017

Dr. Mrs. M.P. SHREE

Retd. Prof. (Plant Pathology) Dept. of Sericulture & Life Sciences, Bangalore University, Bangalore-54

Woman of Strong values known for her humanity and affectionate nature. Our heart are full of memories with pride.

H.A. Hareesha & H.Pramodini 97403 34325

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MAHARASHTRA RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
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Is A Reset Needed?

Gautam Bambawale
Former Ambassador to China and Pakistan

Lt Gen Narasimhan
Member of National Security Advisory Board and Director-General of Centre for Contemporary China Studies

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Prabhu Chawla
Editorial Director, The New Indian Express

NC Bipindra
Defence and Strategic Affairs Analyst

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 8 PM

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WATCH THINK ACT

FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Gondolas lined up during the Vogada della Rinascita (Rowing of Rebirth) races along Venice's canals on Sunday. The event was an initiative to pay homage to the medical staff for their contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic | AP

QuoteExpress

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE STARS, AND YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND

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22.06.2020
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Title relinquished

On this day in 1948, King George VI formally gave up the title of Emperor of India, no longer to be called His Imperial Majesty

KING OF INDIA

George VI was King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions from 1936, until his death. After relinquishing his title as the Emperor, he became the King of India and King of Pakistan

RELUCTANT HEIR

After King George V died and King Edward VIII abdicated the throne, Prince Albert (George VI) was forced to take the throne and become king

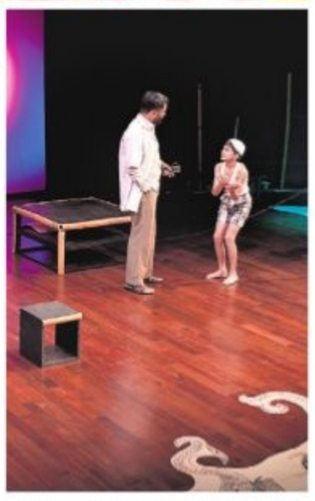
STAMMER STRUGGLES

George provided a model of determination in his struggle to overcome severe stammer. This struggle and his relationship with Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue is depicted in *The King's Speech* (2010)

Sheetal's directorial debut with Window Seat

PG 4

Setting the STAGE



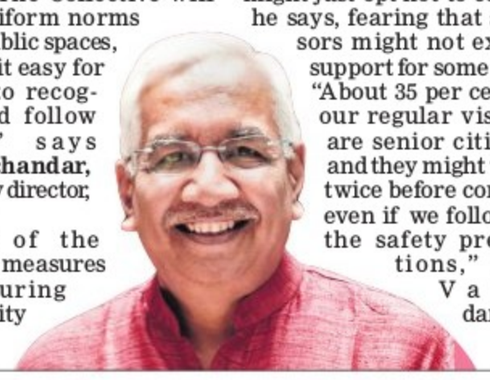
File photos of (from top) audience watching a movie at Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy; a play in progress at Jagriti theatre

Vidya Iyengar

For the last three months, Anand Varadaraj, trustee, Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy, has had to pay rent, and take care of basic amenities as well as the space, all without any revenue. "We've been hit hard," he says. These are the sentiments shared by Rebecca Spurgeon, artistic director of Jagriti, who says, "For a space like ours that has no outside funding, being closed has not just affected our present but will affect us for a long time."

As artistes behind theatre shows, music performances and stand-up acts have reinvented themselves during the lockdown, turning their living rooms into stages for online shows, the spaces they once performed at are struggling to stay alive. Even as the reopening date of auditoria remains uncertain, spaces like Ranga Shankara, Jagriti, Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy, and Bangalore International Centre (BIC), are putting their heads together for a collective response to the Covid threat. The result has been Collective of Arts and Culture spaces in Bengaluru, with one of their initiatives under this umbrella being B-SAFE (Bengaluru - Spaces for Arts, Films and Events).

"We understand the current circumstances, and why permission hasn't yet been given to culture spaces to reopen. However, this puts strain on the livelihood of creative artistes and the financial sustainability of the physical spaces. The Collective will have uniform norms for all public spaces, making it easy for people to recognise and follow them," says **V Ravichandar,** honorary director, BIC.



Some of the planned measures are ensuring traceability of all visitors/staff to the venue through a register of name and contact number with entry and exit time, regular rapid tests for performers to ensure a safe stage environment, and setting up a revised seating plan compliant with physical distancing norms (likely to be at around 30 per cent of full capacity or 50 people). In addition, rest rooms with hands-free operations wherever feasible, reduced seating capacity in cafeteria, disinfecting tables, chairs, cutlery and waste disposal bins, including a separate one for masks and gloves, are in the offing.

In these uncertain times, Spurgeon is heartened to know that Jagriti is not alone in this. "While each space is unique in many ways, we share a responsibility towards sustaining the arts in the city. This shared purpose has made it easier for us to ideate on the future and work on practical steps to make our venues safe spaces for the community," Spurgeon says.

Varadaraj, however, feels that physical distancing will be a challenge. "Watching plays and cinema is a community viewing experience, and to sit far apart and enjoy it might be difficult. They might just opt not to come," he says, fearing that sponsors might not extend support for some time. "About 35 per cent of our regular visitors are senior citizens, and they might think twice before coming, even if we follow all the safety precautions," says Varadaraj.

Favouritism, sudden role drops and endless toil for outsiders... Sandalwood actors open up about the shadows lurking in the film industry

REELING EFFECT

A Sharadhaa

Fans falling at your feet, red carpets, spotlights... But the off-screen reality of the film industry seems to be a far cry from this glamorous world. As fans come to terms with Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's demise, fingers are being pointed at the dominant culture in the industry. One that many actors say is filled with nepotism and favouritism. While Bollywood has constantly been under the spotlight, the situation closer home comes with its own hurdles.

Actor Manvitha Kamath says favouritism exists in Sandalwood as well, where a lot goes on from the time an artiste gives an audition to selection. "Producers, directors and actors all have a say here," adds Kamath, who made her debut with *Kendasampige*. Aspiring to make it big in B-Town as well, Kamath shares how it is difficult to find a place there without good PR. "Gone are the days where genuine auditions were done. Today, filmmakers ask for TikTok videos," she says, recalling an audition she did for Yash Raj Films. "A casting director told me I was good but another person was chosen since she was influential," she says.

Mumbai-based actor Thakur Anoop Singh, who has worked across film industries, says nepotism is everywhere. "A star kid may get multiple launches but an outsider gets only one," he says. The pressure could also come from roles being dropped last minute or from projects being delayed. The 9-film old artiste, whose works include *Commando 2* (Hindi) and *Udgharsha, Yajamana* and *Rogue* (Kannada), shares an instance of a Sandalwood project that he spent eight months preparing for. "My preparation involved intensive gymming, and learning martial arts. I even denied other projects, only to have this one shelved," he says.

Patience and hard work are prerequisites to survive in this field, believes actor **Pruthvi Amba**. While many assume that he became an overnight sensation for his role as Adi in *Dia*, it took him four serials, 10 Tulu films, and four Kannada movies before he shot to fame. "It took 11 years to get where I am," says Pruthvi, pointing out that the struggle is inevitable for those without godfathers. "For an outsider, hurdles are there all along. People confide in me the anguish they go through of not getting the right opportunity after three years. I tell them that I have been struggling for 12 years," he says.

Filmmaker Ramesh Aravind says pressure is a part of any industry. "For actors, it is more because they are in the limelight and criticism can easily affect them," he says, adding that the blame game in Bollywood is just a reflections of the frustration that filmmakers are facing.

(With inputs from Simran Ahuja)

In Sandalwood, producers, directors and actors have a say while casting. But in Bollywood, gone are the days of genuine auditions. Today, filmmakers ask for TikTok videos

—Manvitha Kamath, actor

For actors, pressure is more because they are in the limelight and criticism can easily affect them

—Ramesh Arvind, actor

For sake of JUSTICE

Express Features

It's no secret that seeking justice in this country is a time-consuming affair. Between visits to courts, redirections and legal fees, a person might just give up on the system. "In Metro cities, a 30-minute consultation with a lawyer costs ₹2,000 and then there are other charges," says Shubham Sharma, who has founded Nyaykarta in order to expedite the process. The month-old platform has a team of 500 experts from across the country, including 12 from Bengaluru, and deals with almost 200 cases a day.

According to Sharma, there are around 3 crore cases pending at a district level only, with over 1.5 crore new ones filed every year. Having found no alternative for "quick, cost-effective justice", Sharma has spent the lockdown helping vulnerable groups like migrant labourers for free. "Those who are economically sound, we charge them ₹2,000 to ₹2,500 and try to find a solution in less than a week," says the 26-year-old public policy expert from Jaipur.

Bengaluru advocate Kishore Kumar, who is also part of the team, says courts have not begun functioning to full capacity yet, and some matters could be solved in other ways. "If everyone goes to court, it would only become tedious for them and overburden the system. If we think an alternative is possible, we suggest settling the matter amicably," says Kumar, who was prompted by his own experiences in delayed grievance redressal. Recalling an instance of a firm not paying its 200 workers their provident fund, Kumar shares how it has been three years since he has complained against the company. "If people don't get a solution, it may push them to take extreme steps," says Kumar.

Sharma too was cheated by an absconding landlord during his college days. "I felt helpless at not being able to do anything about it. The police didn't even file our complaint," he recalls. Nyaykarta hopes to make a difference through intervention and mediation. "Sometimes people also suffer due to lack of awareness. For example, a victim of a cyber crime approached a police station, only to be told that he had to go to the cyber cell. But we told him he could file his complaint in any police station," explains Sharma, who prefers to first escalate the matter with the opposite party. "If that doesn't work, we suggest the applicant files an FIR and if the police don't cooperate, we reach out to higher officials," he says.

Shubham Sharma

Kishore Kumar

'Society and dads need to change'

Express Features

UK-based author **Rob Kemp** who penned the best-selling books *Expectant Dad's Survival Guide* and *New Dad's Survival Guide* is perhaps the best person to seek insight on modern fatherhood, that too on Father's Day. Incidentally, Father's Day also coincides with World Yoga Day and World Music Day. "It's a great day to be a flexible dad, with a long playlist!" Kemp jokes with author and journalist Kaveree Bamzai during the recent edition of Indulge Time Pass.

TIME PASS

Incidentally, Kemp's new book *Dadding It* talks about navigating the milestones in your child's life. The author opened up about changes in the child care spectrum. "With the rise of women in the workplace and the shift in dynamic, and also with men wanting to become hands-on, things have changed. Even in celebrity culture, we have so many hands-on dads, like there's David Beckham who gets a lot of admiration, a lot more than what he would have got a generation or two ago, when it wouldn't have been the most masculine thing to bring up the children!" remarks Kemp.

The author also addressed how toxic masculinity often takes a toll on perceptions of parenting and the idea of role-modelling, especially in modern society. "When I became a stay-at-home dad, it did feel like I was seen as someone who took the easy way out. The idea of a stay-at-home dad was seen as kind of a parody, someone who doesn't know what he's doing. But it's about the engagement. A key thing I express in my books is role modelling. We always look up to our dads, we have to realise that every action, the way we interact, our choice of media, our children absorb it all the time. From before babies are born, the focus is very much on mums. But now there are postnatal father groups that recognise that empathy and knowledge is helpful," Kemp tells Bamzai.

Kemp, who's the father of a 16-year-old, also opened up about how crucial it is for fathers to prioritise right. "Part of our makeup has been to provide, our role has been to be the breadwinner. There needs to be a two-pronged approach, the society and dads need to change. It is not humiliating to say I'm a father first or to leave early for your daughter," he reveals.

Kemp says he was taught to cook by the mum of his son and it helped him perceive his role as a primary care-giver. "I can't emphasise enough the importance of dads coming together, be it online or in real-life. Women have done it for years, to be able to share ideas or struggles. It gives you an idea of what being a father involves. Modelling best practises, like going on a ride with your child, eating healthy, etc is more influential than we realise," says Kemp.

WORD OF THE DAY

THANGAL

Tamil word for a reservoir used for irrigation, often one protected by the community– for the function it plays and life it hosts. In Tamil Nadu, there are several places which are named after their community–lakes (Thangals). Vedanthangal translates to 'community-lake protected from hunters'. This bird sanctuary has more than 200 years of recorded history, wherein villagers have been protecting the birds coming to nest here in their tens of thousands each year.

– by M Yuvan

BRIGHT SPOT

SELFLESS ACT

After he was duped of lakhs of money early on in his life, C Mohan, a hairdresser from Madurai, made it a point to save some amount every day. What was categorised as funds for his daughter's education, Mohan used it to help those in need during these tough times. When Mohan's 13-year-old daughter Nethra noticed that many are going to bed hungry every night because of lack of work, she urged her father to use the funds to feed them. They donated rice and groceries to around 1,500 families. Their deeds also garnered PM Narendra Modi's attention, and he congratulated this father-daughter duo in one of his recent Mann Ki Baat sessions. Nethra was also appointed by UNADAP as the Goodwill Ambassador for the Poor.

Source: Femina/ India Today

APPSMART

Azar

Azar allows you to talk and make friends with people from over 190 countries.

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KakaoTalk

KakaoTalk is a fast & multifaceted messaging app. Send messages, photos, videos, voice notes and your location for free.

- **Available on:** Android & iOS

Tiles Hop

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POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

VAYUPUTRA

Balu, a kind-hearted student, studying in a medical college, doesn't like injustice. He gets into a tiff with the notorious Punja and beats him. Panja feels insulted and vows to take revenge.

- Cast: Chiranjeevi Sarja, Aindrita Ray

MR. AND MRS.RAMACHARI

Ramachari and Divya fall in love after the former saves her from a group of bullies in their college. However, they part ways when Divya begins to question his behaviour, trust and way of life.

- Cast: Yash, Radhika Pandit

MADUVE MANE

When Dushyanth, a corrupt man, kills Preeti, her brother Suraj treads on the path of vengeance. With a plan to ruin Dushyanth's marriage, he intends to get his revenge but falls in love with Dushyanth's fiance.

- Cast: Ganesh, Shradha Arya

SIVA

Siva and John, two best friends, get separated due to the atrocities of a gangster. Siva becomes Tiger and fights injustice, while John is hired by a mafia leader to kill Siva.

- Cast: Rajnikanth, Raghuvaran, Shobana

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 WHAT CAUSES OPIOID ADDICTION, AND WHY IS IT SO TOUGH TO COMBAT? BY MIKE DAVIS

In the 1980s and 90s, pharmaceutical companies began to market opioid painkillers aggressively, while downplaying their addictive potential. The number of prescriptions skyrocketed, and so did cases of addiction, beginning a crisis that continues today. What makes opioids so addictive? Mike Davis explains what we can do to reverse the skyrocketing rates of addiction and overdose.

2 THE OPPOSITES GAME BY BRENDAN CONSTANTINE

A classroom erupts into a war of words as students grapple with a seemingly simple prompt: what is the opposite of a gun?

3 WHAT MAKES SOMETHING "KAFKAESQUE"? BY NOAH TAVLIN

The term Kafkaesque has entered the vernacular to describe unnecessarily complicated and frustrating experiences, especially with bureaucracy. But does standing in a long line to fill out confusing paperwork really capture the richness of Kafka's vision? Beyond the word's casual use, what makes something "Kafkaesque"? Noah Tavlin explains.

4 THE WICKED WIT OF JANE AUSTEN BY ISEULT GILLESPIE

Whether she's describing bickering families, quiet declarations of love, or juicy gossip, Jane Austen's writing often feels as though it was written just for you. Her dry wit, cheeky playfulness and conversational tone welcomes readers with a conspiratorial wink. Iseult Gillespie explores the sly societal satire and unique tongue-in-cheek humour of Jane Austen.

5 WHY THE PENCIL IS PERFECT BY CAROLINE WEAVER

Why are pencils shaped like hexagons, and how did they get their iconic yellow color? Pencil shop owner Caroline Weaver takes us inside the fascinating history of the pencil.

FIT BIT

HALASANA

(PLOW POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'hala' means 'plow' and 'asana' means 'pose.' Halasana is a folded inversion, traditionally considered a finishing pose that may be practised at the end of a yoga session. It helps to prepare the body for relaxation, pranayama and meditation. It opens the throat and heart chakras. This is different from the usual opening of these chakras, as in halasana, unlike in other heart-opening poses, they are protected in the front and opened at the back.

STEPS

- Lie down on your back. Join the legs together. Relax the whole body in Shavasana.
- Keep the palm flat on the ground. Breathe normally.
- Inhale and lift the legs until they are perpendicular to the floor. Keep the legs straight and together.
- Now slowly raise the buttocks duly rolling the spine till your big toes reach the ground over the head.
- The spine must be straight and perpendicular to floor.
- Interlock the fingers. If you find it tough, keep the arms closer and join the thumbs.
- Tuck the chin between the collar bones to avoid strain on the muscles of your neck.
- Stretch the legs and arms in the opposite direction. Hold this pose for around 15 seconds to a minute. Take slow and deep breaths.
- To release, gently lower the spine and bring the legs in vertical position. Slowly lower the legs to the ground as you exhale. Relax the whole body.
- Practise for 3-5 minutes. Beginners must do just for a few seconds.

BENEFITS

- Modulates the functioning of all internal organs therefore keeps them healthy.
- Aids digestion, alleviates constipation and dyspepsia.
- Invigorates immune system.
- Rejuvenates adrenal glands, spleen.
- Improves the functioning of pancreas, liver and kidney.
- Beneficial for female reproductive organs.
- Regulates the production of insulin, thus prevents diabetes.
- Enhances blood circulation in the spinal column and tones spinal nerves.
- Increases metabolic rate by regulating the functioning of thyroid gland.
- Makes abdominal muscles stronger and reduces spasms in back muscles.
- Improves the flexibility of shoulders, elbows and wrists.

LIMITATIONS

- If you suffer from slipped disc, severe pain or injury in back or neck, hernia, sciatica, enlarged thyroid, spleen or liver, cervical problems, heart conditions or frequent headaches, avoid this pose.
- Avoid during pregnancy and menstruation.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

ONTHARA BANNAGALU (Kannada)

A slice-of-life film, that revolves around the emotional journey of five different characters and how they react in different situations and circumstances they encounter.

- Cast: Hitha Chandrashekar, Kiran Srinivas, Sonu Gowda
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Cost: ₹129 per month

MUNDINA NILDANA (Kannada)

The film follows the lives of Partha, Ahana and Meera, who have three different goals in their lives. They set out on a journey to find what is next in their life. But what will they find?

- Cast: Praveen Tej, Radhika Narayan, Ananya Kashyap
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Cost: ₹129 per month

KANAVU VARIYAM (Tamil)

An ambitious dropout takes it upon himself to fix the local electricity crisis, despite the doubts and ridicule from his fellow villagers.

- Cast: Arun Chidambaram, Ilavarasu, Yog Japee, Pandi
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

ROCKET SINGH: SALESMAN OF THE YEAR (Hindi)

Harpreet Singh Bedi, a commerce graduate, becomes a salesman. After being ridiculed by his colleagues and his employer, he plans to operate a parallel company without their knowledge.

- Cast: Ranbir Kapoor, Gauhar Khan, Shazahn Padamsee
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

SOLO (Malayalam)

Four disparate lives — a gangster, a student, a veterinarian and a soldier — are evocatively connected to elements of earth, fire, wind and water.

- Cast: Dulquer Salmaan, Neha Sharma, Sai Dhanshika, Arthi Venkatesh, Deepti Sati
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

SILA SAMAYANGALIL (Tamil)

Seven strangers anxiously waiting for their HIV test results decide to bribe the clinic receptionist to get them early, learning one is positive.

- Cast: Sriya Reddy, Ashok Selvan, Prakash Raj, M S Bhaskar, Nassar
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

PHILLAURI (Hindi)

A young man born under an unlucky star is married to a tree first to ward off bad luck before marrying his fiancee. He is astounded when a spirit starts following him, calling him her husband.

- Cast: Suraj Sharma, Anushka Sharma, Diljit Dosanjh
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹399 per year

ENGLISH/FOREIGN

PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE (French: Portrait de la jeune fille en feu)

France, 1770. Marianne, a painter, is commissioned to do the wedding portrait of Héloïse, a young woman who has just left the convent. Héloïse is a reluctant bride to be and Marianne must paint her without her knowing. She observes her by day, to paint her secretly.

- Cast: Adèle Haenel, Noémie Merlant, Luàna Bajrami, Valeria Golino
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹129 per month

THE DAY AFTER I'M GONE (Hebrew)

A single father copes with his teenage daughter's suicidal thoughts.

- Cast: Zohar Meidan, Miri Aloni, Menashe Noy
- Watch on: Mubi
- Registration: ₹499 per month

SOLO (Spanish)

In a remote area of the Canary Islands, young surfer Alvaro Vizcaino accidentally falls from a cliff. Seriously injured, he must fight to survive.

- Cast: Alain Hernández, Aura Garrido, Leticia Etala, Ben Temple
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

CAROL (English)

Therese Belivet works at a department store in Manhattan where she encounters the beautiful Carol. Things take an unexpected turn when Therese develops strong feelings for Carol.

- Cast: Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara, Sarah Paulson, Kyle Chandler
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹129 per month

QUICK FIX

CHETTINAD KOSMALLI

INGREDIENTS

- **Brinjal:** 10, small
- **Onion:** 2, big
- **Potato:** 2
- **Tomato:** 2
- **Green chilli:** 3
- **Dried red chilli:** 4
- **Tamarind water**
- **Urad dal** ■ **Mustard**
- **Curry leaves**
- **Asafoetida**
- **Turmeric powder**
- **Coriander powder**
- **Oil** ■ **Salt**

METHOD

- Cut brinjal, tomatoes, potatoes and green chilli into small pieces and cook them for three whistles by adding sufficient amount of water and a pinch of turmeric powder in a cooker.
- Heat oil in a pan. Add mustard, urad dal, asafoetida and coriander powder along with finely chopped onions and four dried red chillies.
- When the onions start to turn brown, add the cooked vegetables to the pan and mash the contents.
- Finally, add salt and tamarind water to the mixture and let it boil. The dish will be ready to relish in five minutes and tastes good with tempered rice noodles (sevai).

– by RK Srividya, Chennai

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

Chocolates with turmeric and goji berry
● Meghana Sastry

TASTE OF TIMES

Eateries in the city are now innovating dishes by playing around with immunity boosting ingredients

● Simran Ahuja

Chocolates with ashwagandha, ginger or cumin; potato wedges with moringa leaves; a white rum pina colada with turmeric... Restaurants and cafes in Bengaluru are coming up with innovations to show that diners can actually get a host of health benefits in these pandemic-ridden times. Many are now turning towards local ingredients for their immunity-boosting properties, with pepper, amla and chia seeds joining the list of condiments as the new stars of their dishes. According to food writer and consultant Monika Manchanda, in the last 15-20 days alone, a couple of clients have reached out to her for help with new recipes to include on their menu. "And those who aren't coming up with new dishes, are highlighting the immunity-boosting ingredients in their existing ones," she says, adding that she has recently helped a Bengaluru eatery with a 'Golden Glow' smoothie that contains carrot, turmeric and ginger.

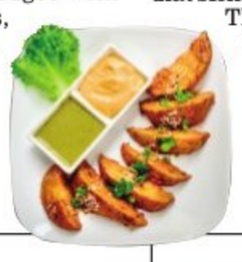
Antioxidants in dark chocolates are, of coursem said to be good for the immune system. But in light of the coronavirus spread, Smoor Chocolates has decided to further infuse their chocolates with ashwagandha, and come July, will offer customers variants with pecan nuts, goji berries, turmeric, ginger, amla and cumin. Agreeing that these are not ideas one might stomach easily, chief marketing officer Kanchan Achpal hopes that people will develop a taste for it anyway since boosting one's immunity is the need of the hour. "People tend to be hesitant about such combinations but come to eventually enjoy it," she says. Case in point: The turmeric latte they introduced earlier this month. Currently, the Indiranagar outlet receives 10-12 orders for this, as opposed to 30-35 orders for their regular latte.

Agrees Nidhi Nahata, founder of JustBe Resto Café, who is hoping to reopen her eatery for dine-in in July. New offerings include a salad bar (with 50 varieties), potato wedges with moringa leaves, hemp hearts in milkshakes, hemp powder in chapati and pizza dough, and avocado chocolate mousse. "Right now, people have been cooking more and becoming more aware of what to eat. So such dishes will only be in demand," says Nahata, who is also a health coach and food therapist.

While the ingredients to experiment with are plenty, nothing beats the crowning glory of the golden spice. Having always been famous in its 'haldi doodh' form (Chaayos has also introduced a haldi chai on its menu), turmeric has even managed to find its way into alcoholic drinks at The Leela Palace, Bengaluru. The star hotel will offer diners a turmeric pina colada once restaurants get a go-ahead to serve liquor, with its team having spent the last few weeks coming up with a menu of 12 new drinks (eight cocktails and three welcome drinks) with amla, hibiscus, tulsi, etc. "Turmeric powder tended to overpower the drink, so we settled for a crushed decoction of it that blends well with the drink. The taste of pineapple, coconut and white rum remains the same, with just enough spice to get its health benefits as well," says F&B manager Mark Manuel.

On the menu
- Moringa
- Hemp seeds
- Microgreens and sprouts
- Turmeric and black pepper
- Amla

During the pandemic, people have been cooking more and becoming more aware of what to eat. So such dishes will only be in demand
— **Nidhi Nahata**, founder, JustBe Resto Café



Finding flavours

● Monika Monalisa

As the Indo-China border issue came to a boil, the simmering tension has entered our kitchens too. Amid calls for boycott of Chinese food and restaurants in India, several people are calling out the authenticity of the 'desi-Chinese' cuisine that we relish regularly at the nearest noodle shop or a pan-Asian outlet.

City-based hospitality professional Aslam Gafoor says the Chinese cuisine available here is more suited for the tastebuds of Indians. "One can trace back their history when they started migrating to India and having their own settlements. The recipe might be the same but the ingredients they used were different. The chillis and other spices which they started using were grown in India and tasted different," says Gafoor, who jokes that if one tries to serve manchurian or fried rice to a person of Chinese origin even they would not be able to relate to the food. However, getting rid of Gobi manchurian or Schezwan fried rice from the menu might not prove to be as easy as breaking a TV set made by a Chinese brand. "After Indian food, it's the most popular cuisine among people," adds Gafoor.

Busting various myths about Chinese food, Vivek Salunke, co-partner of Dofu in Indiranagar, says in its home country, the flavour varies according to regions and topography. "We have a limited knowledge about the ingredients that go into making their dish. How many of us know that curry leaves are widely used in Chinese kitchen? They also use a mix of mustard oil, sesame oil and groundnut oil," says Salunke, adding that enjoying authentic Chinese flavours is an acquired taste. However, chefs are trying to educate themselves to make the dishes as authentic as possible. He also explains that just like the Indianised version, the Chuka recipes (Japanese way of making Chinese food) are also gaining popularity in Bengaluru.

Also, there's no one particular kind of Chinese food available in India, says Amit Ahuja, who owns restaurants like Misu and Lucky Chan in the city. "The dishes prepared here are heavy on the use of soya sauce and chilli sauce. They can be categorised into two kinds – the Indianised version and the international Chinese cuisine, which is also available in places like Dubai, Tokyo and New York," says Ahuja, pointing out that the one stark difference is in the usage of meat. "For example, Cantonese street food comprises a lot of meat, such as rabbit, snake or octopus. But we don't use anything beyond chicken or seafood," he adds.

Cantonese street food comprises a lot of meat, such as rabbit, snake or octopus. But we don't use anything beyond chicken or seafood
— Amit Ahuja, owner, MISU and Lucky Chan

Parents, teachers brew up storm on social media

● Express Features

E-learning is better than no learning, was the emphasis laid by thousands of pre-school owners, parents of young children, and educators when they took to social media to participate in Tweet Storm on Sunday. This was their way to protest against what they called an "arbitrary ban" against online teaching by the government. Held between 2pm and 6pm, #righttolearn saw more than 25,000 tweets.

Entrepreneur Deepu Chandran whose son is in Class 2 is furious and disappointed with the ban. "Instead of trying to uplift children, the government is pulling every child down. Online classes are a meaningful way to keep children engaged. However, it looks like this move has been made so that the government can evade flak they would face about children who don't have access to online education," he says.

When schools were told not to increase the fee this year, or as uncertainty about reopening remains, Usha Iyer, director, The Green School Bangalore and The Bangalore School Whitefield, says they complied by it. "But if they insist upon no online education, many standalone pre-schools will have to close down. It has already started happening," she says, pointing out that pre-recorded classes by private tutors are being permitted. "Why can't there be one rule for everyone?," she questions, adding that they are ready to help out the underprivileged. "If we are to reach the 2030 digital literacy goal, we really need to employ new methods. Talking about screen time, our classes were not over an hour long. Teachers were putting in a lot of effort to make these sessions engaging," she says.

Going by the Twitter storm which has gathered considerable steam, Anusha Madhavan, whose daughter is a Class 3 student, is hopeful that the ban will be lifted. "There's no way I can replicate the school experience at home. My daughter is quite attached to her friends and teachers and is eager to learn. We want to cash in on that," says Madhavan, adding that she feels teachers are better equipped to handle questions, especially on the ongoing pandemic. "When my daughter asked about the fear of death because of COVID-19, I didn't have a clear-cut answer. However, the math teacher was able to explain how one could stay safe through social distancing using some concepts. My daughter was more accepting of such an answer," she says.

If parents insist upon no online education, many standalone pre-schools will have to close down. It has already started happening
— **Usha Iyer,** director, The Green School Bangalore

PS: I love it

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

Welcome to the second part of the review of the PS5 reveal event. Truthfully, I had covered most of the games in part 1. What was left in the event reveal was just the montage of a hundred different developers repeating "Welcome to PlayStation 5" several times. Recap: I rushed through about 20 game trailers, most of which release in 2021/2022. The only purpose that a review of a 30-second teaser serves is that if I am right in my assessment, I can say 'I told you so' when the game gets released.

The later part of the event had a delicious video footage of the new PlayStation. While being in awe of the tech of it all, I would really like to understand the logic behind having a wireless charging dock for the PS5 controller. I am almost always charging the device only while I am using the console, and the wireless charging dock doesn't look portable. A second rhetoric question: what is the point of having a separate digital edition, apart from facilitating differential pricing for a device that I would normally expect to have both a CD drive and digital installing facilities? This budget-digital edition won't really be budget in the long run, considering that I would have to compensate with internet usage to download and the lack of space to have several games installed in the system.

The event revealed a trailer of *Astro's Playroom* – which looked like an ad for the PS5. Apparently, this game would be pre-loaded into every console when the system launches. I am guessing most people would uninstall it for the extra space to play *NBA 2K21* – the pre-alpha trailer looks hyper-realistic, and even non-sport fans would appreciate. *Little Devil Inside* is a game long in the making, and trailer showed an open-world RPG storyline hinting interesting movement and combat in different environments.

I am most looking forward to *Deathloop* from Arkane and Bethesda – which has combat options reminiscent of Dishonored. I have said before that rock music in a trailer always helps – and it instantly made Deathloop appear wild and exciting. *Bugsnax* had a curious trailer – the game seems to take the proverbial "You are what you eat" literally, with every creature on the bugsnax island having their limbs turn into curly fries or strawberries. The game segment ended with the trailers of *Resident Evil: Village and the remake of Demon's Souls* which appeared aptly horrific. On the whole, I rate a full PS5/5 for the event launch. Let us hope the games are as exciting as the trailers portray.

CITY READ

Dialysis machine donated to Victoria Hospital

Bangalore Kidney Foundation (BKF), an NGO which supports free and subsidised dialysis for patients from weaker economic background has donated dialysis machines to Victoria Hospital. BKF stepped in when they heard of scarcity of equipment at the hospital.

Power cut in the city

The city will be facing a power supply interruption from 10:30 am to 5.30pm on June 22, due to maintenance work. Some of the areas which will be affected are Devarachikanahalli, Ramesh Reddy Layout and surrounding areas.

3DEVI SHOOTING TO BEGIN POST UNLOCK

The film, directed by Ashwin Mathew and starring Shubha Poonja, who is also the executive producer, will now be shot in Coorg

A Sharadhaa

Film 3devi will be among the first movies from the Kannada film industry to get permission to resume shooting. Actor Shubha Poonja, who is also stepping in as the executive producer for the first time, is planning to head to Coorg this week to begin filming the remaining sequences. "Adhering to the guidelines and instructions, we have decided to go with a 12-member team at the most," says Shubha.

The film is directed and produced by Ashwin Mathew, and 70 per cent of the shoot was already completed in Wayanad, while the remaining 30 percent will be done in Coorg. "It is an action thriller, and the crucial portions required us to shoot in a forest area, which is something we found in Wayanad. However, with the current situation, we can't go to back to Kerala. So we chose Coorg," says Shubha.

3devi is a three-heroine film, and along with Shubha also features Jyothsna Roa and Sandhya I in the lead roles. "Sandhya comes from a modelling background, while Jyothsna, who is Bharathi Vishnuvardhan's sister's daughter, has been into theatre. We spotted her and brought her on board, and *3devi* will mark her debut," says Shubha, adding, "I have done films starring three heroines, starting with *Moggina Manasu*. But they were usually films where the story ran on emotions. So when I was offered such a film again, I wanted to go with a different concept, and that's when we decided to go with an action thriller."

A still from *3devi*

As a producer, Shubha says she considers *3devi* her first baby. "I have taken the responsibility along with director-producer Ashwin Mathew for the entire process of filming. It is a learning process. If this film succeeds to an extent, it will certainly push me to turn into a full-time producer," she says.

3devi, made under the banner of Altered Ego, has divided the technical crew between Bengaluru and Kerala. The film has cinematography by Kunjunni S Kumar while music has been composed by Fedel Ashok

Sheetal Shetty associates with Manjunath Gowda for *Window Seat*

CE Features

In January when the shooting of Window Seat was completed, little did they realise that the post-production work would star only six months later. Now, with things having opened up to a large extent, Sheetal Shetty made an official announcement on Saturday about her directorial debut and that they would be associating with KSK Showreel for *Window Seat*.

This announcement was made with the film's poster, which is likely to be followed with the first look. The romantic-thriller, starring Nirup Bhandari in the lead, is produced by *Phantom* producer Manjunath Gowda, popularly known as Jack Manju. In addition to direction, Sheetal has also written the story, which features Amrutha Iyengar and Sanjana Anand in the female leads. The film will also see Ravi Shankar in a prominent role. Actor Suraj and theatre artiste Lekha are also part of the cast.

The team also revealed the technical crew which include Arjun Janya composing the music. DOP Vignesh Raj is handling the camerawork while Ritwik will handle the editing. "The shooting was completed in January, and we are now working on the music. The second half of editing is going on currently," says Sheetal, who is looking to release the film at the right time. "I am hoping that the pandemic dies down, and I am able to release my directorial debut in 2020," she says.

Manjunath Gowda

Sheetal Shetty

Manoj Bajpayee's *Bhonsle* to be out on SonyLIV on June 26

A still from *Bhonsle*

CE Features

Devashish Makhija's long-delayed film *Bhonsle* will be released on SonyLIV on June 26. Set in Mumbai, the film stars Manoj Bajpayee as a terminally-ill Maharashtrian cop who tries to protect a migrant girl and her brother from a local politician.

Bhonsle premiered at the Busan International Film Festival in 2018. It was also screened at the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival and the 2019 International Film Festival Rotterdam. The film picked up two awards at the Asian Film Festival Barcelona and a Best Actor award for Manoj at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

Bhonsle is co-produced by Manoj Bajpayee Productions, Golden Ratio Films and Promodome Motion Pictures. The cast includes Santosh Juvekar, Ipshita Chakraborty, Abhishek Banerjee, Rajendra Sisadkar and Virat Vaibhav.

Devasish has directed the feature films *Oonga* and *Aaji*. He had previously worked with Manoj on the short film *Taandav* (2016).

Sushant Singh Rajput and Bhumi Pednekar

Bhumi Pednekar pens emotional tribute for Sushant Singh Rajput

CE Features

Bhumi Pednekar has penned an emotional tribute for her *Sonchiriya* co-star Sushant Singh Rajput. Sushant died by suicide in Mumbai on June 14. He was 34.

Addressing him as 'supernova', Bhumi wrote, "I wake up in the morning and I think of you, I think of all our chats, your habits and moods. Then it kicks in, a pain I couldn't imagine I would feel for you."

Bhumi recalled meeting Sushant for the first time. "...you told me you would show me the stars. In my head I wondered -'ya whatever, what a cheese ball.' Little did I know you meant every word you said."

She continued: "With a smile full of pride you showed it to us, This massive big black hole, your best friend, your telescope. I was like - wait, what, really, you got this here!!! Full of excitement, in the middle of nowhere, You jumped like a child, Ready to take us all on a journey... You took us to the moon and back, I remember the moon being red then. You showed us Saturn, Jupiter, and a million stars."

Bhumi remembered their conversations about music, art and physics. She said Sushant went from being a co-star to a teacher.

"You turned me into a seeker, Ready with her book and pen, Waiting for class to begin. I remember your excitement on all the questions I asked, Getting an answer from you wasn't easy, You would turn that too into a learning task. You, my friend, gave me an experience of a lifetime," Bhumi wrote.

Mark Rylance to play the lead in *The Fantastic Flitcrofts*

CE Features

Oscar-winner Mark Rylance will play the lead role in golf based comedy-drama, *The Fantastic Flitcrofts*. The film will be helmed by Craig Roberts of Just Jim and Eternal Beauty fame.

The Fantastic Flitcrofts will have a screenplay by Simon Farnaby, who has adapted it from the book *The Phantom Of The Open*, which he co-wrote with English journalist Scott Murray.

Rylance will be seen playing Maurice *Flitcroft*, a dreamer and unrelenting optimist, who managed to enter The British Open Golf Championship qualifying in 1976 and consequently shot the worst round in Open history, becoming a folk hero in the process.

Jamie Foxx shares update on Mike Tyson biopic

CE Features

Actor Jamie Foxx has shared the news that the long-awaited Mike Tyson biopic is finally moving forward. The actor confirmed the movie is in the works during Mark Birnbaum's Instagram Live session. "It's a definitive yes," Foxx said when asked about the biopic.

"Look, doing biographies is a tough thing. Sometimes it takes 20 years to get them done. But we officially got the real ball rolling," he added.

Jamie Foxx

The Oscar-winning star said he was eager to show the audience the "different lives" of the iconic boxer. "We want to show everybody evolves. I think when we lay the layer of Mike Tyson in this story, everybody from young and old will be able to understand this man's journey," he said.

Foxx also touched on how he would be approaching the role of Tyson. "And then just the technology of how I'm gonna look, I guarantee you people will run up on me in the street, and ask for autographs, and think that I'm Mike," he said.

He continued, "Every other day, I do 60 pull-ups, we do 60 dips, we do 100 push-ups. I ain't got no calf muscles, so we might have to get some prosthetics for that."

Previously, Foxx has essayed real-life characters several times, beginning with his breakout role and Oscar-winning portrayal of Ray Charles in the 2004 film, *Ray*.

Avinash Ramachandran

Famous American architect Louis Isadore Kahn said, "To hear a sound, is to see a space." With all of us forced to separate from cinema theatres—and embrace OTT platforms—this topic of sound and what it means to a film becomes particularly relevant now. Ashim Mathur, Senior Regional Director, Emerging Markets, Dolby, shares that this is very much a focus area. "Among our many goals is to provide an immersive experience through televisions. There's also focus on entertainment consumed on handheld electronic devices," he says.

Synonymous with quality audio in our country, Dolby has made massive strides technologically and has fostered an environment where consumers are mindful of sound quality when making their choice of cinema venue. Atmos is seen as a big breakthrough. "Earlier there were constraints in mixing movies in channel-based audio. Filmmakers were not able to tell their stories the way they wanted to. Atmos, an object-oriented, 3D surround audio format as opposed to the channel-based audio system, was born as a result of all that feedback," says Ashim.

With the growing stature of OTT platforms in the entertainment industry, the need to provide the highest quality of entertainment in our living spaces has now become paramount. "We work with sound engineers and other technical leaders in India to ensure there is a direct connection with the industry right from the content developing stage. On the distribution side, we have our technology present in set-top boxes and streaming platforms. Dolby audio is present even in handheld devices," says Ashim.

As he talks about Dolby audio being present even in mobile phones, he acknowledges that the big hurdle is consumer awareness. "Though the technology is available across multiple brands and price ranges, I agree that awareness is important. We are working with retail partners to enhance this." The organisation, he says, is constantly looking to innovate. "Dolby ATMOS was a result of such an innovation, and now, we also have Dolby Vision that uses 4K 6P modular laser projectors." With present technological limitations, sometimes, the colours captured during shooting don't always get projected, he shares. "This is where Dolby Vision comes in. The 3D output through Dolby Vision is three times better than most existing 3D projections. It gives you the gamut of colours and provides an amazing brightness ratio. The technology adopts scene-by-scene optimisation to cater to each scene according to the devices the content is viewed in," says Ashim. "We are working with all our partners —directors, sound designers, colorists — and equipping them with knowledge to use this technology optimally." Technology is not waiting for theatres to reopen though, given that Dolby Vision has already made its debut in Indian markets through Netflix's Yeh Ballet. It is also offered through other Netflix titles like Guilty and Betaal.

When people talk about the theatre experience not being replicated in their smartphones or smart TVs or their regular phones and TVs, sound is a big factor of comparison. How is a company like Dolby planning to bridge this gap? "At the core of Dolby's operation is the content creator's vision and of course, consumer satisfaction. Having said that, every segment, be it theatres, televisions or mobile phones, is an experience unto itself. You cannot compare. However, we are constantly looking to improve, and consumer feedback is a big factor," signs off Ashim.